AWARD WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + APPS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + HIDDEN TREASURE

THE WORLD'S BEST
NEWS & FACTS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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US parks to ban single-use plastics
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June 24, 2022 • Vol. 3, Issue 114 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

2022 Summer of Reading

The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

Get ready to read this summer with our kid-created book list, a sweepstakes to win prizes, and much more p12

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1926, the Ford Motor Company was the first big business to adopt the 40-hour, five-day work week.

A woman in London, in the UK

UK leader to stay

Boris Johnson

The UK prime minister (similar to a president), Boris Johnson, narrowly kept his job after members of his party held a vote on whether he should stay in power. Johnson, who has faced several recent scandals, needed at least 180 votes from the 359 Conservative members of Parliament (like Congress). He received 211 votes.

Test of four-day work week starts in UK

Thousands of UK residents are participating in the world's largest-ever pilot program to try out a shorter work week. For the next six months, 3,300 workers at 70 companies will work four days a week rather than five to assess their levels of productivity and happiness.

What is happening?

Employees will work 32 hours instead of the usual 40, but they will be responsible for the same amount of work and receive their full salary. The program will look at whether workers are less stressed, better rested, and more fulfilled when they work fewer hours, and whether that leads to greater job productivity and satisfaction. The experiment is being run by nonprofit groups 4 Day Week Global and 4 Day Week UK Campaign, the UK-based research group Autonomy, and researchers from Cambridge and Oxford universities in the UK and Boston College in the US. People taking part range from healthcare workers to employees in fast-food restaurants.

Why is this happening?

Advocates have been arguing for a shorter work week for many years. They believe that fewer hours on the job leads to better work-life balance and makes employees more productive. This is especially important to employers now because many people left their jobs during the pandemic as part of what's known as the "Great Resignation." Many people said they were burned out and unsatisfied with their work and wanted to do something different. The experts in charge of the study believe it will show that companies that offer four-day work weeks are more attractive to employees. Similar experiments in Iceland were a huge success. Participants reported that working fewer hours motivated them to waste less time at work and be more efficient. An extra day off allowed them to do household tasks, exercise, and spend more time with loved ones, which improved their overall well-being.

Mark Takano

Could a four-day week happen elsewhere?

The four-day work week is being tested in several other countries this year, including the US, Canada, Scotland, Spain, Australia, and New Zealand. In February, Belgium announced that employees can request it. In 2021, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern encouraged companies to try a shorter week "if that's something that would work for your workplace." Some large companies have successfully tested four-day weeks in the past. Microsoft in Japan tried it in 2019 and saw a 40% increase in productivity. In March, Mark Takano, a member of Congress (branch of government that makes laws), proposed a law creating a four-day work week in the US. He told *The New York Times* that, after the pandemic, people don't "want to return to the same old normal."

How did people react?

Mark Downs, head of the UK's Royal Society of Biology, which is participating in the trial, echoed the sentiments of many other companies joining the research. "It's about trying to do more to be a good, innovative employer to attract and retain our current staff," he said. "It's great for everybody." Some employment experts, however, argue that a move to a four-day work week harms hourly or "gig" employees, such as delivery people, who get paid per task and could see their income drop.

What will happen next?

The trial period will end in mid-December. After that, researchers will begin to gather data from workers about their experiences. Juliet Schor, a professor of sociology at Boston College and a lead researcher on the trial, said scientists will analyze employees' levels of stress and burnout, job and life satisfaction, health, sleep, energy use, and travel, among other factors.

Drought reveals an ancient city

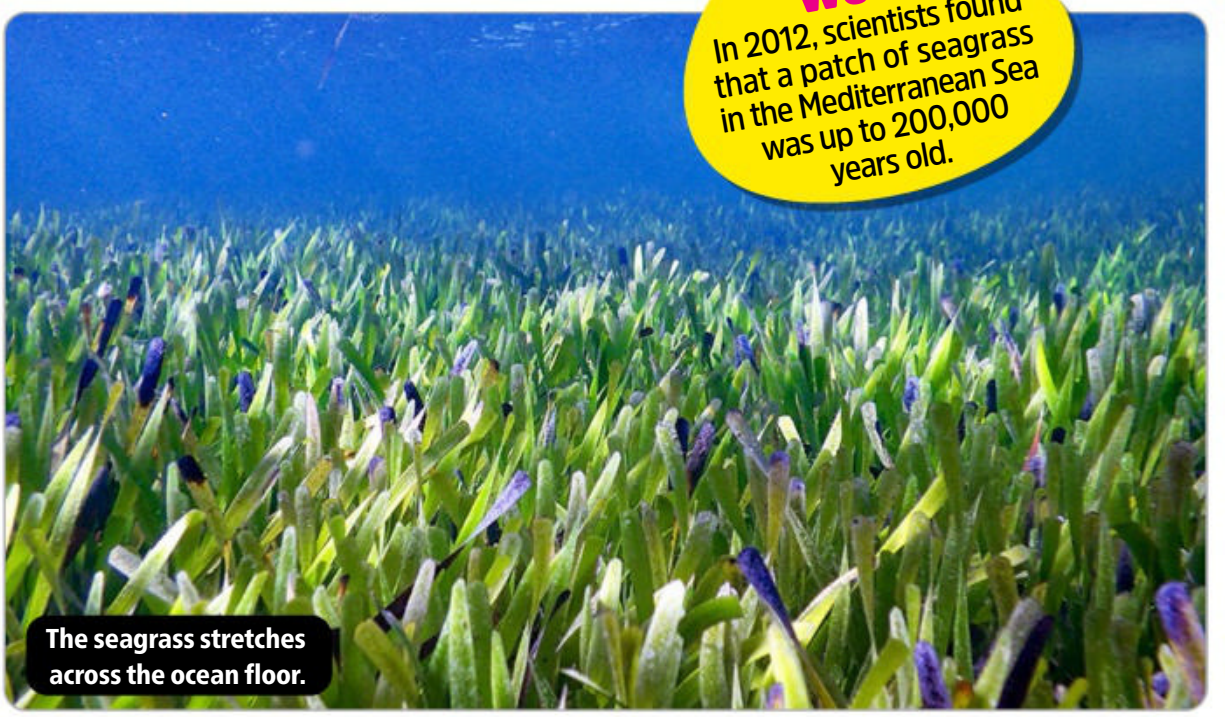
An extreme drought (lack of rainfall) has uncovered a major piece of history in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. In January, amid record low levels of rain, Iraqi authorities took water from the Mosul Dam reservoir to keep crops alive. As the dam's water level dropped, the well-preserved remains of a 3,400-year-old city emerged.

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) knew of the site, called Kemune, but had been able to only partially investigate it during a drought in 2018. This time, a team rushed to examine and map most of the ruins. They found a multi-story building where goods were stored, a defensive wall and towers, and hundreds of artifacts, including more than 100 clay tablets from approximately 1365 BCE.

Experts believe the city might have been Zakhiku, which was the center of the Mittani Empire (1550 to 1350 BCE). Before the dam was refilled, researchers covered the ancient structures with plastic tarps to protect them while they are underwater.

The ancient city

WOW! In 2012, scientists found that a patch of seagrass in the Mediterranean Sea was up to 200,000 years old.



The seagrass stretches across the ocean floor.

World's largest plant found

Scientists have discovered a 4,500-year-old seagrass that stretches for more than 111 miles off the coast of Australia, making it the largest plant in the world. The plant is Posidonia australis, commonly known as Poseidon's ribbon weed. Seagrass makes leaves, flowers, and seeds like other plants and is different from seaweed, which is a type of algae. Seagrass filters the water and produces oxygen, which is beneficial to marine life.

Scientists from the University of Western Australia and Flinders University were studying the genetic diversity (the variety of inherited traits in a species population) of the seagrass meadows in an area called Shark Bay, in Western Australia. They looked at the genes (short sections of DNA, a complex chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop) from samples of seagrass shoots to determine how many different plants were growing there. "The answer blew us away—there was just one!" said Jane Edgeloe, the study's lead author.

Seagrass reproduces by creating new shoots with the exact same genes (called cloning). It also has twice as many genes as similar plants. The team thinks these extra genes helped it withstand a wide variety of environmental conditions.

Next, the researchers will investigate how the plant has thrived. There is concern that it will suffer as the climate warms, but it has already recovered well from damage from a heat wave about 10 years ago, said Elizabeth Sinclair, an author of the study. "It appears to be really resilient," she said.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A SPECTACULAR SAIL

Kenichie Horie, an 83-year-old from Japan, became the oldest person to sail alone nonstop across the Pacific Ocean—60 years after he was the first person to make the journey. "Don't let your dreams just stay as dreams," Horie said.

Kenichie Horie

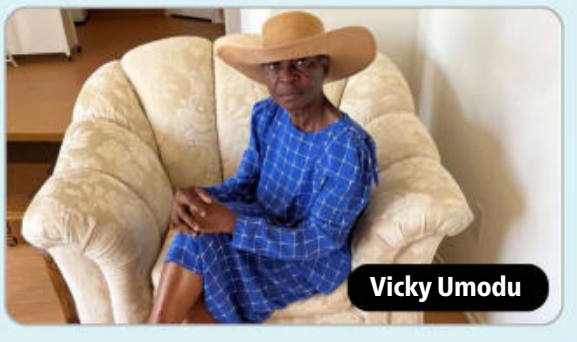
LIVING IN STYLE

Feathered friends are flocking to 33 designer birdhouses at New York City's Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The designs in the "For the Birds" exhibit include a bird library, a "Birdega" modeled after a bodega (mini-mart), a bird condo made of recycled objects, and a "food cart" created from pieces of a real cart.

One of the birdhouses

HIDDEN TREASURE

Vicky Umodu already felt lucky to find a free set of used furniture online. Then the California woman discovered more than $36,000 inside a chair cushion. Umodu returned the money to the family that gave her the chair. "It's important to do the right thing in life," she said. In turn, the family gave Umodu money for a new refrigerator.



Vicky Umodu

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; U.S. MINT; NPS; ON THIS PAGE: RACHEL AUSTIN/UWA; UNIVERSITIES OF FREIBURG AND TÜBINGEN, KAO; AP; BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN; DISEPH MGBOROGWU; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

HELPING OTHERS
Items that food banks can always use include peanut butter, canned beans, and canned fruits and vegetables.

A manager sorts cereal at a food assistance center in Virginia.

Packaging is shrinking

Due to rising costs, companies are spending more money to make products. Some are repackaging items in smaller amounts without lowering the price. Above, the red Gatorade is the drink's 32-ounce packaging. The yellow one is the new 28-ounce packaging. Once a product shrinks, it often stays that way, experts said.

Food banks call for donations to meet need

Across the country, food banks are calling for donations of food and supplies. The leaders of these nonprofit groups, which collect and distribute food to people in need, said their food banks are running low on inventory due to the start of summer and the high cost of food.

What is happening?

Summer is typically a challenging time for food banks. Many of the school groups and community organizations that give to food banks take breaks at this time of year, resulting in a decrease in donated food. Individual donors or families may not remember to donate if they are traveling or on vacation. Summer can also be a time of increased demand because schools are not open to provide meals to students.

Why is the need increasing?

More people are visiting food banks to supplement the groceries they buy. A survey by the Urban Institute found that one in six adults are relying on donated food, an increase from previous years. Inflation (the rate of increase in the prices of goods and services over a specific period of time) is driving up the cost of food, making it difficult for people to buy what they need. It is also harder for people to afford to donate food.

How much are prices going up and why?

The cost of beef is up by about 16%, milk has jumped by more than 13%, and fresh fruit costs about 10% more than it used to. These increases are mostly due to inflation. Another factor is drought (extreme lack of rainfall) in the Western part of the US, which has made beef more expensive to produce. In addition, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has increased the cost of wheat because much of the world's wheat comes from Ukraine.

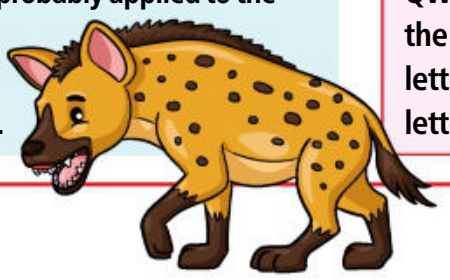
What will happen next?

Food banks will increase their call for donations throughout the summer. They said they will use emergency supplies and switch to less expensive products, among other steps, to provide food for more people. The national organization Feeding America has asked that people write to their elected officials to ask for more government funding to help people in need. To find the people who represent your area, you can go to usa.gov/elected-officials.

WORD OF THE WEEK

HYENA

If you study a photo of a hyena, you might notice the animal's rich mane that sticks upright and runs along its back. It was this mane that gave the hyena its name, as it comes from the Greek *huiana*, meaning female pig. It was probably applied to the animal because a hyena's hair looks like a pig's bristles.

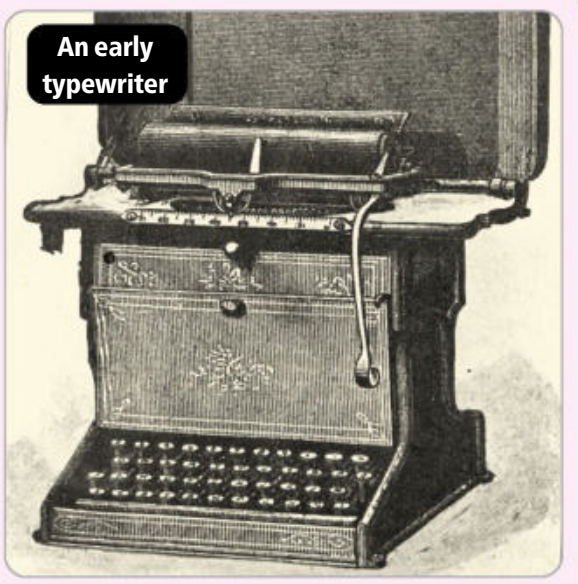


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 23, 1868

Patent is granted for first typewriter

On June 23, 1868, the first mass-produced typewriter, invented by Christopher Latham Sholes of Wisconsin, was granted a patent (sole right to sell an invention). It resembled a miniature piano. Sholes later invented the QWERTY keyboard, which was named for the first six keys on a typewriter's top row of letters. To this day, computers arrange those letters on a keyboard in the same way.


An early typewriter

National parks to ban plastics

The US government said it will phase out the sale of single-use plastics, such as cutlery and bottles, at national parks by 2032. Environmentally friendly materials will replace single-use plastic, said Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior (US agency that protects public lands). The move could keep about 14 million tons of plastics from ending up in oceans. Haaland said her department must "play a leading role" in reducing plastic waste.

Winners for *A Strange Loop*

Top theater prizes awarded

On June 12, the most important honors in theater were presented at the 75th annual Tony Awards, which were televised from Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The winner for Best Musical was *A Strange Loop*, which had 11 nominations, the most of any show this year. The Best Play award went to *The Lehman Trilogy*. Angela Lansbury earned her sixth Tony with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The quarter

New coin honors female chief

Wilma Mankiller (1945–2010), the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, is the third woman to be featured on a quarter that is being released to the public. The American Women Quarters Program celebrates the contributions made by women to the development and history of the nation. Earlier this year, the series released quarters of poet Maya Angelou and astronaut Sally Ride.

DID YOU KNOW? Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a statewide holiday in 1979.

Performers in a Juneteenth parade in Michigan in 2021

Celebrations set to mark Juneteenth

On June 19, the nation will celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday that marks the end of slavery in the US and recognizes Black history, culture, and achievements. The name is a combination of June and nineteen. Initially celebrated in Black communities, it is considered the oldest holiday celebrating Black Americans.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared all enslaved people in the US free. But the Confederacy, made up of a group of Southern states that fought against the US during the Civil War (1861–65), resisted the order. On June 19, 1865, US troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to ensure the release of all enslaved people in the state.

President Joe Biden signed a bill creating the national holiday in June 2021. Because the holiday is on a Sunday this year, the government will observe it on Monday, when government workers will have the day off.

People mark the occasion by holding parades, picnics, and family gatherings. Many people sip red drinks, a tradition that symbolizes the strength of Black Americans and their ability to endure centuries of hardship.

Cities across the US will host a variety of events. A jazz festival will take place in San Francisco, California, where the city hall will be decorated in red, green, and black, the holiday's traditional colors. A dance performance will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Festivities in Houston, Texas, will include cooking demonstrations and the first-ever Juneteenth basketball tournament.

The Juneteenth flag

Beyond the celebrations, Juneteenth organizers will emphasize education, with many groups hosting speakers. "It's not just a Black holiday," Alicia Austion, executive director of the Juneteenth Foundation, told *The Washington Post*. "It's an American holiday that we all should lean in and really acknowledge and support."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Bear visits the dugout at minor league stadium in Tennessee" ***UPI***

AP; GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY; U.S. MINT; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); AP

Around the world

The wildfire

Benahavis, Spain
Town evacuated after wildfire

Thousands of people have been evacuated from the town of Benahavis, in the mountains of southern Spain, following a wildfire. The fire, which began on June 8, has spread because of hot weather and winds. Emergency services, including the fire department, have been sent to the site. Authorities have provided tents and temporary accommodations for people who needed them.

Jeanine Áñez

La Paz, Bolivia
Former president sentenced to jail

Jeanine Áñez, a president of Bolivia from 2019–2020, has been sentenced to 10 years in jail for being involved in a coup (an attempt to replace a government by force). Áñez has been found guilty of plotting with Bolivia's army and police to force out the former president, Evo Morales, in 2019, in order to take power. Áñez has said she is the victim of political motives and plans to appeal the decision.

A voter casts a ballot.

Abuja, Nigeria
Voters with disabilities seek inclusion

Lois Auta, a politician with a disability, is calling for more support so others with disabilities are able to vote in elections. About one in six Nigerians have a disability, yet they make up less than 1% of registered voters. Auta has proposed changes to make elections inclusive, such as by making poll locations wheelchair accessible. "We are making gradual progress," said Auta.

Servion, Switzerland
Rare albino tortoise born

Zookeepers have revealed what is believed to be the first albino Galápagos giant tortoise ever observed. Albinism is a genetic condition that prevents the body from having any color. The rare tortoise recently hatched at Tropiquarium, a zoo in Servion, Switzerland. Zookeepers say the odds of an albino tortoise are 1 in 100,000.

The tortoise

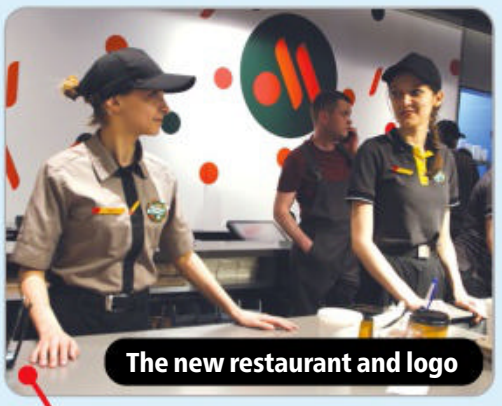
Santiago, Chile
Dog cleans capital

A dog has been helping to clean up parks in Santiago, the capital of Chile. Sam, a border collie, has been picking up litter on his regular walks with his owner, Gonzalo Chiang. In the month of April alone, Sam and Chiang collected 602 masks, 585 bottles, and 304 cans. Because of Sam's trash clean-up efforts, he has been made into a superhero in a comic book to teach people about the harmful impact of littering.

Sam on the hunt for litter

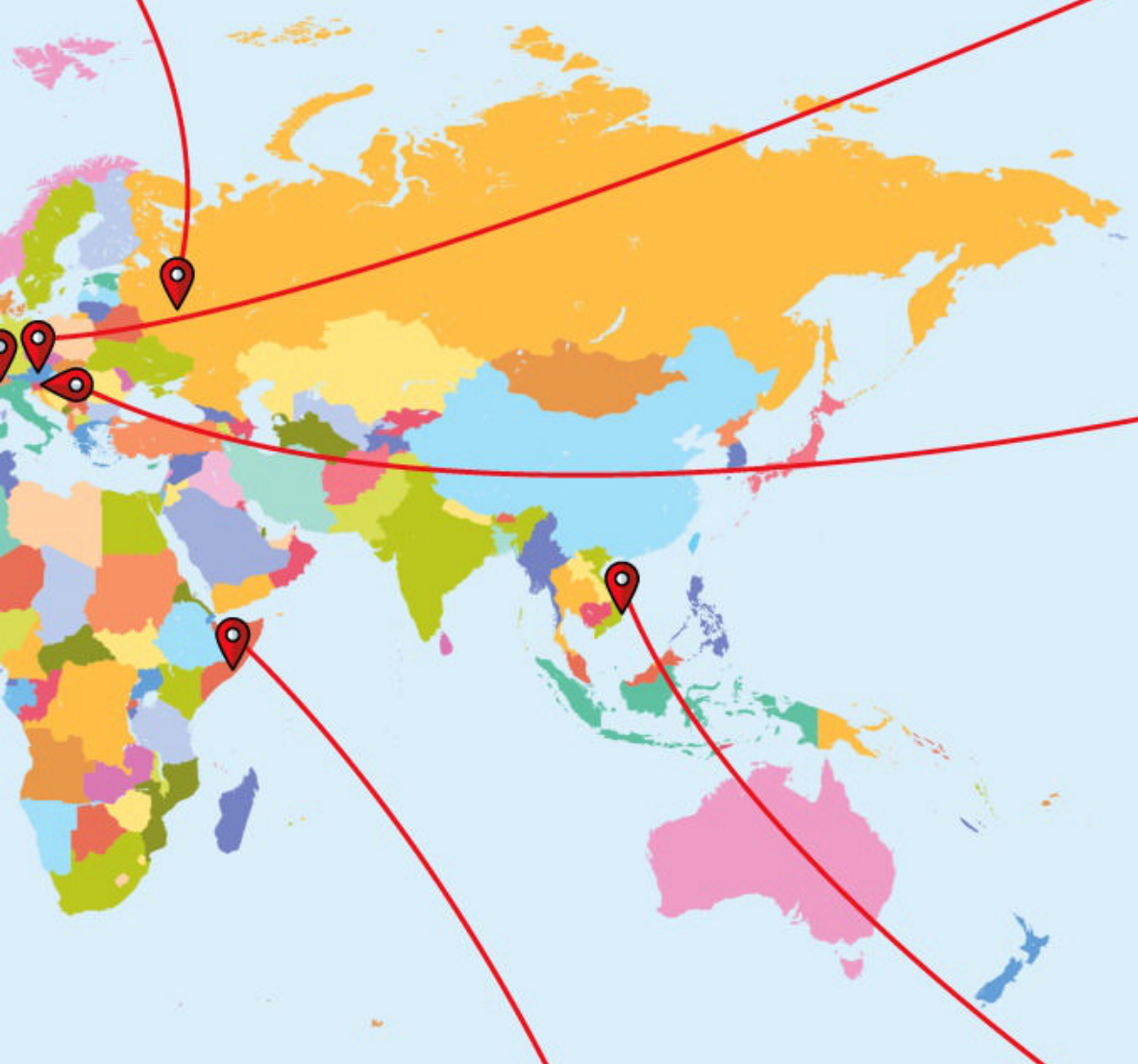
ALAMY (3); GETTY IMAGES (3); REUTERS; AP; SHUTTERSTOCK; DEEPVIEW 24

Around the world


The new restaurant and logo

Russia
Former McDonald's reopen

McDonald's restaurants in Russia have reopened under new ownership and with a limited menu. McDonald's exited Russia in May because of Russia's war on Ukraine and sold its restaurants to a Russian business owner. They have been renamed *Vkusno i Tochka* ("Tasty and that's it"), and have a new green and orange logo representing a burger and two fries.



A lake in Austria

Austria
Best country for swimming named

Despite not having a coastline, Austria has been named the best country in Europe in which to take a swim, in a yearly report by the European Environment Agency. Known for its beautiful Alpine lakes, Austria clinched the top spot, with 97% of its waters deemed to be of "excellent" quality. The rest of the top five countries for swimming, in order, were Malta, Greece, Croatia, and Cyprus.

The National Museum

Ljubljana, Slovenia
Art exhibit canceled over suspected fakes

An exhibition at the National Museum of Slovenia claiming to feature paintings by world-famous artists such as Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and Henri Matisse was canceled after it was found that some of the works may have been forged (faked). The paintings belong to a private family collection. Art expert Brane Kovič described the paintings as "clear forgeries." Police have launched an investigation.

Somalia
Facing a famine

Millions of people in Somalia, and in neighboring countries Ethiopia and Kenya, are facing famine (an extreme lack of food). The food shortage has worsened because of rising food prices caused by the war in Ukraine, as well as the loss of farm animals and crops due to lack of rainfall. The United Nations (an organization of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation) said that countries need to donate about $250 million to help stop the crisis.

A woman and her baby in Somalia

An illustration of the submarine

Hon Tre Island, Vietnam
See-through submarine gives clear view

Tourists at a resort in Vietnam are able to explore the ocean in a new way after the launch of the Triton DeepView 24, a see-through submarine. Passengers on the 24-seat vessel will reach depths of up to 328 feet. During 30-minute dives, they can look for shipwrecks and observe ocean life. The experience is described as "entirely non-polluting" to the environment.

Should people be allowed to rent out pools?

Fun seekers can use an app to rent a stranger's backyard pool for a few hours.

What you need to know

- **Swimply, founded in 2018, is a pool-sharing site and app. People rent out their private pools, similar to the way people rent out their homes on Airbnb. Swimply says it has more than 20,000 pools available in the US, Canada, and Australia. Swimmy, a similar service, is based in Europe.**
- **There are about 10.4 million residential pools and 309,000 public pools in the US.**
- **Each summer, it can cost an average of $3,000 to maintain a pool.**

BIG SPLASH
The largest swimming pool in the world is at the San Alfonso Del Mar resort in Chile. It is 3,324 feet long

The pool rental site and app named Swimply was launched in 2018. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when many public pools and recreation facilities temporarily closed, many people used the site to rent pools in other people's backyards for a few hours of fun. Even as many facilities have reopened, pool rental continues to be in demand by people who want to rent them and by pool owners who like to bring in extra income for their families. But some people say there are too many risks and that renting out a backyard pool is not a good idea. What do you think? Should people be allowed to rent out swimming pools?

Yes—pool rentals are a great idea

Pools are expensive to own. It costs money to open a pool, maintain it all season, and close it. However, for pool owners, renting it out brings in extra money, which can be put toward the cost of keeping up a pool. Pool rental is also a helpful service to the renters. Being able to rent someone's pool for a few hours gives more people the opportunity to enjoy swimming and have fun. Swimply offers insurance and protection for the renter and the host. The company also requires hosts to inspect their pools for health and safety problems, such as high chlorine levels. This helps everyone enjoy the pool rental safely.

No—renting isn't worth the risk

Pools can be dangerous, especially if someone isn't a strong swimmer or there isn't proper supervision. There are risks to renting a pool, including someone getting hurt. Every year, about 6,700 Americans make trips to the emergency room for injuries at a pool. Renting out a backyard pool can also get on the nerves of neighbors. Some communities are cracking down on the practice by lobbying for local laws banning homeowners from renting their pools. Finally, renting out a pool may come with unpleasant surprises. Strangers may not take care of it like the homeowner would.

YES Three reasons why people should be allowed to rent out swimming pools

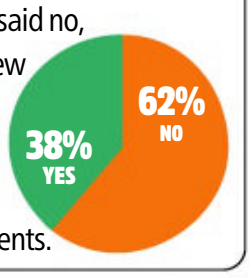
1. **Pools can be expensive to own. Renting out a pool for others to enjoy brings in money to help pay for the cost.**
2. **The ability to rent pools through an app gives more people access to summertime fun.**
3. **Pool-sharing apps offer insurance to protect both renters and hosts.**

NO Three reasons why people should not be allowed to rent out swimming pools

1. **There are risks in renting out a pool to strangers, including someone getting hurt in the renter's yard or pool.**
2. **Renting out a pool can be annoying to the neighbors.**
3. **Strangers may not take care of a pool properly, resulting in unpleasant surprises and hassles for the owner.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked if schools should get rid of class rank. More of you said no, but quite a few of you felt that schools should stop ranking students.



What do you think?

Now that you've read more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit theweek junior.com/polls with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think people should be allowed to rent out swimming pools or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Escaping into reading

Today co-host Jenna Bush Hager wants summer reading to be an adventure.

Jenna Bush Hager goes on a book trip every day. As she reads, she travels the world and meets new characters. It's why she fell in love with reading and why she's so passionate about sharing books with others. The co-host of NBC's *Today with Hoda and Jenna* founded the *Today* book club Read with Jenna. Now Hager has a new list of recommendations just for kids.

The Read with Jenna Jr. Summer Reading List, which is on *Today*'s website, features 27 books, with memoirs like *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson and new novels like *Falling Short* by Ernesto Cisneros. This summer Hager will talk to some of the authors on the *Today* show.

Hager, 40, was born in Texas. She is the daughter of former President George W. Bush and the granddaughter of former President George H.W. Bush. Her mother and grandmother were children's librarians. With her family's love of reading, and her experience as a former teacher and a mom of three, Hager knows children's books well.

"What's fun is looking at books and making sure there's something for everybody," Hager told *The Week Junior*. Representation was a priority when creating the list. Hager wanted all kids to be able to "pick up a book and see themselves in it."

Many kids struggle to find time to read, and Hager said she faces that challenge too. "Put the screens away and give yourself the time to fall in love with reading because it's a skill that will last a lifetime," she said. Hager cherished her summers filled with books. Now it's her life's work. "I still feel like that little girl who feels so lucky to have a book as a companion."

Jenna Bush Hager

DID YOU KNOW?
Jenna Bush Hager co-wrote two children's books with her twin sister, Barbara.

A taco journalist

Marco Torres, a writer and photographer in Houston, Texas, has always loved tacos. Now he is writing about them in a new column in the local online news outlet The Chron. Torres grew up eating his family's Mexican food and never regretted not dining at fast-food chains. In his new biweekly column Tacos y Más, he will explore Houston and its people through tacos and Mexican food. "Taco journalism is not just about the food," Torres told The Chron. "It's more about the people who are making the food."

Marco Torres

Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish speaks out

Billie Eilish has shared what it's like living with Tourette's syndrome, a condition that causes people to make unintentional sounds and movements called "tics." In an interview, the singer said having Tourette's is "part of me." She said that people sometimes react in offensive ways, such as laughing at her. Eilish found out she had the condition when she was 11 and said that some tics have gone away but others still happen. She added that fellow artists have shared with her that they have Tourette's syndrome too. Approximately 300,000 children in the US have the condition.

OVERHEARD

"I think a life led with purpose is what makes you happy."

Chinese Canadian actor Simu Liu, who became Marvel's first Asian superhero in 2021 as the lead in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*

GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY OF MARCO TORRES

A giant anteater

Toco toucans

WOW!
The Amazon rainforest is home to at least 10% of the world's known species.

A poison dart frog

A harpy eagle

The Andean bear

The Andean, or "spectacled," bear is the only bear species native to South America. It is considered a priority species (top concern), as habitat loss has caused numbers to decline to about 18,000 bears. Andeans build nests in trees to eat and sleep, and each bear has its own distinct cream markings on its head, throat, and chest.

An Andean bear

New photos of animals in the Amazon

Researchers have put together the largest-ever collection of photos of wildlife in the Amazon. The Amazon, in South America, has the world's richest level of biodiversity (variety of living things in an area) and the biggest rainforest in the world.

The collection consists of more than 154,000 photos of 317 different species. Researchers say the information gathered will help them understand the impacts of habitat loss, climate change, and other human activities on wildlife in the Amazon.

A jaguar

The photos were taken using camera traps. Camera traps are cameras placed in the wild with a sensor that can pick up when animals are nearby and lead the camera to take a picture without disturbing them. The traps became a popular way of studying animals in the wild starting in the 1990s and can be used to monitor animal populations or observe how creatures hunt and find mates.

Camera traps have been increasingly used in the Amazon to estimate populations of jaguars and other species. They also gather data on wildlife diversity, activity patterns, and natural history, study co-author Robert Wallace, an official with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), told Treehugger. The WCS contributed extensively to this new collection of photos. Camera traps snap photos of animals when they least expect it, Wallace said—for example, giant anteaters rolling around in a mud bath or a cougar taking a nap.

The most photographed animal, recorded nearly 12,000 times, was a type of rodent called the spotted or lowland paca. Other animals that were photographed include jaguar cubs, toucans, pumas, and Andean bears.

The photos in this new collection were taken in eight countries in the Amazon, with 147 scientists from 122 research institutions helping to compile it. Along with the photos, scientists provided information such as what bait was used to attract the animal photographed and where the picture was taken. The data will be freely available to scientists for research purposes and to investigate threats to the Amazon's environment.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Bear Rocks and Allegheny Front Preserve, West Virginia

In 2021, Bear Rocks and Allegheny Front Preserve in West Virginia was named the 600th National Natural Landmark, a program that encourages protection of the nation's natural heritage. The preserve is considered special because of the way plateaus (flat landscapes that rise out of the surrounding area) have formed out of mountain landscapes over millions of years. While the region has been harmed by decades of deforestation (cutting down trees), red spruce trees are once again thriving. Sandstone boulders dot the landscape, and golden eagles soar in the skies above.

A golden eagle

DID YOU KNOW?
A typical domestic cat can learn the meaning of an average of 20 to 40 words.

Some cats remember one another's names.

Cats learn the names of feline friends

Researchers have discovered that in homes where three or more cats live, the pets learn their feline friends' names.

Scientists at Kyoto University in Japan studied 48 cats. Of those, 29 lived in "cat cafés" with many cats, and 19 were household cats. The household cats lived with at least two cats for a minimum of six months. For the study, the researchers showed the cats photos of their feline roommates. They also played an audio recording of the cat's owner or a researcher calling the correct cat name or a fake one.

When researchers called the fake name, the household cats looked at the images longer. Scientists believe this is because the cats were confused when the wrong name was called and had expected to hear the correct one. However, café cats did not show the same behavior. These cats hear more names called every day and may have less chance to learn them.

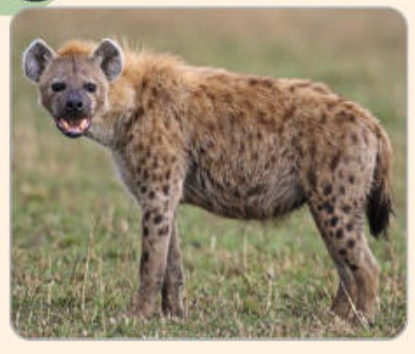
Researchers don't yet know the science behind how cats know names. "It is still an open question how cats learn the other cats' names and faces," they reported.

Animal of the week: Golden takin

A male golden takin calf has been born at the San Diego Zoo. Named Jin Tong, which means "golden boy" in Mandarin Chinese, it is the first male golden takin (rhymes with "rockin'") born in the Western Hemisphere.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 20 years in captivity
- **SIZE:** 3.3 to 4.5 feet tall and 5 to 7.3 feet long
- **HABITAT:** High up in the Himalayan mountains
- **DIET:** A wide variety of leaves and plants
- **FUN FACT:** Takins have a secondary fur coat in the winter that they shed for summer.

Good week / Bad week



Spotted hyenas

These African predators are adapting to shifts in weather patterns. Scientists thought hyenas would be forced to travel farther for food and neglect cubs. But studies found they are spending just as much time with their young.

Flamingos

A fox broke into the outdoor bird habitat at the Smithsonian National Zoo and killed 25 flamingos and injured another three. The injured flamingos are being treated at the zoo's veterinary hospital while the rest have been moved indoors.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (7)

Ask a zookeeper: "How big do shark jaws have to be to fit so many teeth?" Casey, 8, Connecticut

Manny Ezcurra
Curator of fish and invertebrates, Monterey Bay Aquarium

A shark's jaws grow as the rest of the creature grows. Teeth size will also vary depending on the food they eat. Some sharks, like great whites, might eat much larger and more mobile animals, so they would need larger teeth to capture their prey during ambushes.

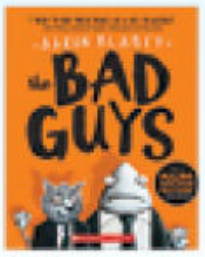
A great white shark

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Monterey Bay Aquarium at montereybayaquarium.org.

The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

The Week Junior **asked children across the country which books they enjoyed so much that they would recommend them to other kids. We turned their suggestions into this one-of-a-kind list of spectacular titles in all the categories you love. Happy summer reading!**

FAVORITE MYSTERIES



THE BAD GUYS
By Aaron Blabey
(Scholastic Press)
The characters make this illustrated 15-book series so appealing, our kid panelists said. "It's about animals, including a shark, that can solve crimes. And they can walk and talk like humans," said Logan, a 3rd grader. Thomas, a 4th grader, liked that "one person in the book is trying to convince another person to do something every time." *Ages 7–10*

FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON
By Janae Marks
(Katherine Tegen Books)
A 12-year-old girl sets out to prove that her father is innocent of a crime that he was convicted of committing. "It's suspenseful," said 7th grader Micayla. Although some of the subject matter is serious, there are many lighthearted elements, including a cupcake recipe. *Ages 8–12*

THE MAGIC MISFITS
By Neil Patrick Harris, Illustrated by Lissy Marlin and Kyle Hilton
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Carter and five other teenage magicians try to save a town from a carnival owner who wants to steal the largest diamond in the world. Packed with jokes, magic tricks, and "fun mysteries," according to 3rd grader Malia, this first book in a series keeps the twists coming. *Ages 8–12*

THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY
By Trenton Lee Stewart, Illustrated by Carson Ellis
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
A group of super-smart orphans goes undercover in the first book of a series. They spy on the school's evil headmaster, who wants to take over the world. "The book has a lot of riddles snuck in," said Augustus, a 4th grader. Garrett, a 6th grader, recommends it because of its "action, mystery, and surprise ending." *Ages 8–12*

NANCY DREW AND THE CLUE CREW
By Carolyn Keene, Illustrated by Macky Pamintuan
(Aladdin)
Nancy is 8 years old in this modern spin-off of the Nancy Drew series from the 1930s. In the first of a series, a friend's dolls go missing at a sleepover. It's up to Nancy and her friends to find them. "It was the first mystery series I read," said Hannah, a 5th grader. *Ages 6–9*

THE OLD WILLIS PLACE
By Mary Downing Hahn
(HMH Books for Young Readers)
Both a mystery and a ghost story, this 2004 novel about a brother and sister who secretly live in an old mansion is intriguing. "I got to know the characters very well in the book," said 5th grader Andrea. Heart-pounding and suspenseful, the story is told partially through diary entries. *Ages 10 and up*

OLLIE'S ODYSSEY
By William Joyce
(Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books)
Ollie, a stuffed animal, gets captured by a wooden clown in this charming book that may remind you of the movie *Toy Story*. Carrying a lightsaber and snacks, Ollie's owner, Billy, sets out to rescue Ollie and the other captive toys. Dannia, a 7th grader, liked the suspense: "Billy and Ollie are trying to find their way back to each other." *Ages 7–11*

FAVORITE FANTASIES

AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS
By B.B. Alston
(Balzer + Bray)
Amari's older brother is missing, and she's convinced that the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs knows where he is. Amari competes for a spot in the organization's training camp so she can find him. "It's a magical book," said Xander, a 4th grader. The second book in the series will be released in August. *Ages 8–12*

Take our challenge!

This summer, we challenge you to read three books. They can be from this list or any books you choose. Once you've read them, fill out the form on p17. Have an adult upload the form to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-readingsweeps. You'll be entered for a chance to win books and a personal video call with an Author Ambassador (see p15). Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 19.

Symbol key

- Graphic novel
- Series
- Notable classic
- Newbery Medal or Newbery Honor

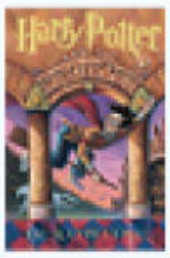
BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS

Summer of Reading

The First Cat in Space

CECE RIOS AND THE DESERT OF SOULS
By Kaela Rivera *(HarperCollins)*
When Cece's older sister is kidnapped by a powerful desert spirit, the 12-year-old pretends to be a witch to get her back. A coyote becomes her unexpected friend. "The story has the right balance of adventure and magic," said Leslie, a 7th grader. You may enjoy the references to Aztec mythology sprinkled throughout. A sequel is coming out in September. *Ages 8–12*

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
By C.S. Lewis *(HarperCollins)*
Published in 1950, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is the most famous story in this classic series. Lucy and her siblings travel through a magical piece of furniture to get to the land of Narnia. They help a talking lion fight an evil witch who causes winter to never end. "It's fun and full of adventure," said Hudson, a 3rd grader. *Ages 8–12*



HARRY POTTER
By J.K. Rowling *(Scholastic Press)*
This story about a boy who accepts an invitation to attend a school for wizards got the most nominations of any book by our kid panelists. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is the first of the series. "It's an amazing and entertaining series that spans years and has mythical creatures, magic powers, wands, and characters that you really get attached to," said Isaiah, a 5th grader, who read all of the books. *Ages 8 and up*

THE LAND OF STORIES
By Chris Colfer, Illustrated by Brandon Dorman *(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)*
The Wishing Spell, the first of six books in a series, transports twins Alex and Conner into a world where multiple fairy tales exist. To return home, they need to find several magical items. "It shows you how to improvise and be grateful for what you have," said Srishti, a 5th grader. "Its plot twist will keep you up at night." *Ages 8–12*

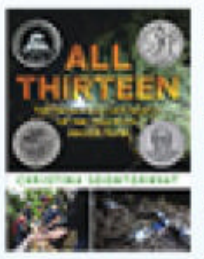
PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS
By Rick Riordan *(Disney-Hyperion)*
The series opener, *The Lightning Thief*, follows Percy around the country as he tries to recover Zeus's lightning bolt. Kids credit the blend of fantasy and mythology for hooking them on the series. "It keeps you up late at night reading because the books are so good!" said Christian, a 4th grader. *Ages 10–14*

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF NESTOR LOPEZ
By Adrianna Cuevas *(Square Fish)*
Nestor has a big secret: He can talk to animals— and they can talk back to him! When the animals in his new hometown in Texas start disappearing, Nestor will need to come to terms with his magical powers to save the town and his grandmother. "The chapters have a lot of cliff-hangers," said Jace, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

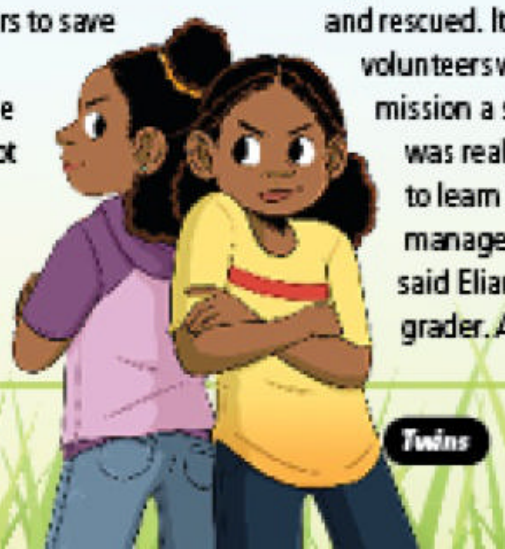
WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER
By Tae Keller *(Random House Books for Young Readers)*
When Lily explores a secret family history, a magical tiger offers to strike a deal with her. If she accepts, she could save her sick grandmother. But is the deal what it seems? "I love it for all the Korean folktales and drama," said Olivia, a 4th grader. This book won the Newbery Medal in 2021. *Ages 8–12*

WINGS OF FIRE
By Tui T. Sutherland *(Scholastic Press)*
Young dragons from different tribes are being raised in secret to fulfill a mysterious prophecy at the start of this series with 14 books. The books are told from the perspective of different dragons. Said 4th grader Florence, "The author really makes you feel you are going through the same struggles as the main character." *Ages 9–12*

FAVORITE ADVENTURES



ALL THIRTEEN: THE INCREDIBLE CAVE RESCUE OF THE THAI BOYS' SOCCER TEAM
By Christina Soontornvat *(Candlewick)*
This nonfiction book tells the story of how 12 young athletes and the coach of a soccer team in Thailand were trapped in a flooded cave and rescued. It describes the volunteers who made the mission a success. "It was really interesting to learn how the boys managed to survive," said Eliana, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*


Twins

The Bad Guys

ALONE
By Megan E. Freeman *(Aladdin)*
Beautifully written in verse, this novel follows a 12-year-old girl who is mistakenly left behind when all the residents flee her small Colorado town. Her neighbor's dog is her only companion. She faces many challenges, including a tornado. "It teaches you to believe in yourself when times get hard," said Kent, a 5th grader. *Ages 10 and up*

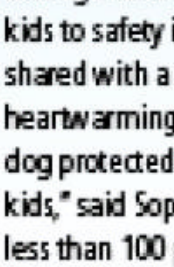
THE HUNGER GAMES
By Suzanne Collins *(Scholastic Press)*
This popular trilogy is about a corrupt government that forces children to battle one another to the death in contests. In the first book, Katniss, 16, volunteers to compete in place of her younger sister. "The series has a good storyline, theme, and writing style," said Aarav, an 8th grader. Said Lulu, an 8th grader, "I love the characters." *Ages 12 and up*

I SURVIVED THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC, 1912
By Lauren Tarshis, Illustrated by Haus Studio *(Graphix)*
The first five books of the popular I Survived series have been made into graphic novels. A mix of fact and fiction, this one is about made-up characters on the Titanic, a ship that really sank in the ocean. "This series makes learning about history interesting," said 4th grader Olivia. *Ages 8–12*

Summer of Reading

Harry Potter

THE POET'S DOG
By Patricia MacLachlan
(Katherine Tegen Books)
During a blizzard, a talking Irish wolfhound brings two kids to safety in a cabin he once shared with a poet. "It was very heartwarming, and I love how the dog protected and took care of the kids," said Sophia, a 5th grader. At less than 100 pages, the book is a fast read too. *Ages 6–10*



THE UNWANTEDS
By Lisa McMann
(Aladdin)
Growing up in Quill is scary: Some kids go to the university while artistic ones are supposedly sent to their death. In the first book in a series, one child discovers that artistic types have a different fate. The book is full of "creativity, adventures, and basically everything you could ask for in a series," said Nissa, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

Ollie

FAVORITE FUNNY STORIES

BEDHEAD TED
By Scott SanGiacomo
(Quill Tree Books)
For Ted, age 10, every day is a bad hair day. He gets bullied about his red hair, which stands straight up. But it turns out that his hair actually has superpowers and could help solve a longtime mystery in his town. "It's an interesting story with funny characters," said Mason, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
By Jeff Kinney
(Harry N. Abrams)
This blockbuster 16-book series records the antics of Greg, an imperfect middle schooler, and his pals. "It's a classic that kids my age can relate to," said Ben, a 6th grader. Since you don't have to read the books in order, 5th grader Jace recommends kids start with the ninth book, *The Long Haul*, about a road trip. *Ages 8–12*

DOG MAN
By Dav Pilkey
(Graphix)
Everything's funny in this wildly popular graphic novel series, starting with the fact that the crime-fighting main character has the head of a dog and the body of a human. With sippy cup monsters, kitten clones, and tools like "obey spray," the wackiness leaps off the pages. "Sometimes new characters join, and they're hilarious too," said Alex, a 5th grader. *Ages 7–10*

JUNIE B. JONES
By Barbara Park, Illustrated by Denise Brunkus
(Random House Books for Young Readers)
A feisty kindergartner stars in this 28-book series that's been making kids laugh since 1992. In the first book, *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus*, Junie hides at school when it's time to go home so she doesn't have to take the stinky bus. "Junie B. is funny and kind of sassy like me," said Belvia, a 3rd grader. *Ages 6–9*

THE FIRST CAT IN SPACE ATE PIZZA
By Mac Barnett, Illustrated by Shawn Harris
(Katherine Tegen Books)
With a zany premise—rats from another galaxy are eating the moon, and a pizza-loving cat has to save the day—this new graphic novel is uproarious. The bold, easy-to-follow comic panels are as gleeful as the story. "It made me laugh so hard that I was about to cry legitimately," said Savanna, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH
By Max Brallier, Illustrated by Douglas Holgate
(Viking Books for Young Readers)
Kids agree about what makes this action-packed series epic: "It takes place during a zombie apocalypse," said 3rd grader Logan. From their treehouse headquarters, a 13-year-old and his friends have to fight off zombies and other creatures who have invaded their town. The next book comes out in September. *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE FAMILY DRAMAS

AFTER ELI
By Rebecca Rupp
(Candlewick)
After Daniel's brother, Eli, is killed at war, Daniel is grieving and decides to create a book filled with details about how famous people died. "This story teaches you about how to overcome problems from your past and to treasure every moment," said Srishti, a 5th grader. "It keeps you gripped until the end." *Ages 10–14*

BLENDED
By Sharon M. Draper
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
Isabella, who loves to play the piano, has long felt judged for her racial identity—her mom is white and her dad is Black. And now that her parents are divorced, she feels very much split in two. "She's being pulled in different directions by her parents," said Christian, a 4th grader. "This book helped me understand how to step into someone else's shoes and be an ally." *Ages 8–12*

How the book list came together

To compile this list of 50 books, we asked children in classrooms in California, Maryland, Michigan, and Texas to tell us what their all-time favorite books are and why. We also asked our current and former Junior Council members to tell us the books they love most. The books that received the most votes made this amazing list. It's full of award-winning reads with diverse characters, magical plots, and suspenseful moments—and proof that kids make the best book critics!

I Dissent

Summer of Reading

Meet our five Author Ambassadors

During our Summer of Reading challenge in the next five issues, look for interviews with these award-winning creators in Book Club on p23. They each have a new book launching this summer!

SOMAN CHAINANI

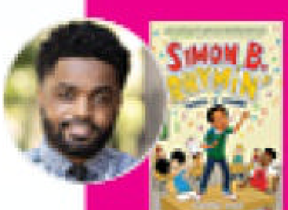
Chainani, a big fan of fairy tales, has a new book called *Rise of the School for Good and Evil*, which takes place before his School for Good and Evil series. The first book will be released as a Netflix movie this fall.

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

You may recognize this famous actor from the 2003 movie *Freaky Friday*, in which she plays the mom. Curtis just released season 3 of *Letters from Camp*. It's an Audible original audiobook podcast about the mysterious and hilarious adventures of a group of kids at summer camp.

CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

This new book by Grabenstein, the author of favorites like *Dog Squad* and *The Smartest Kid in the Universe*, is *Mr. Lemoncello's Very First Game*. It is the prequel to his riddle-filled Mr. Lemoncello's Library series.



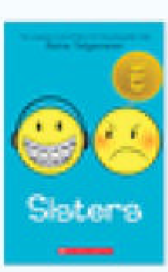
DWAYNE REED

When he is not writing books, Reed is a teacher and talented musician. In his latest title, *Simon B. Rhymin' Takes a Stand*, students start a community petition to save the school's debate team.

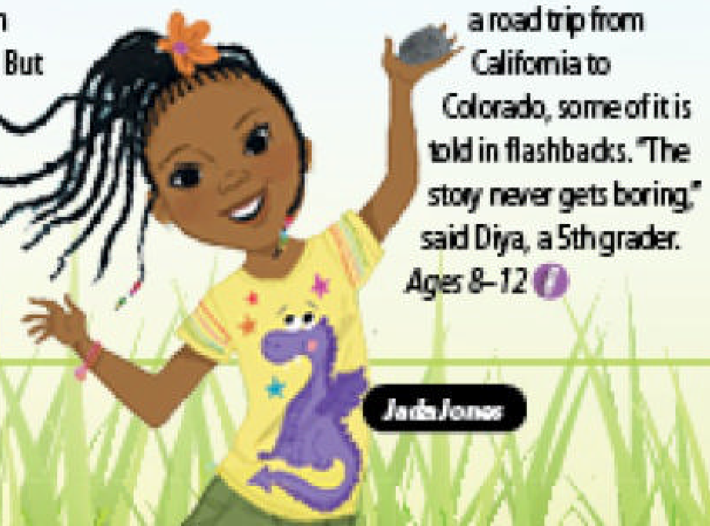
JO RIOUX

Cat's Cradle: The Golden Twine, the new graphic novel from Rioux, a Canadian writer and illustrator, is a monster-filled fantasy adventure. It is the first book in a planned trilogy.

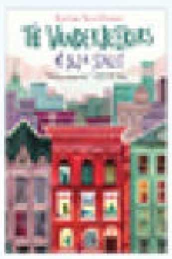
ONE CRAZY SUMMER
By Rita Williams-Garcia
(Quill Tree Books)
"This page-turning book opens your eyes to three African American girls' lives in 1968," said Noor, a 6th grader. The siblings travel to California to meet their mom who abandoned them seven years ago. But summer with her is not what they expected. *Ages 8–12*



SISTERS
By Raina Telgemeier
(Graphix)
In this graphic novel memoir that is a follow-up to *Smile*, the author honestly and amusingly recounts the ups and downs of life with her own little sister. While much of the story takes place on a road trip from California to Colorado, some of it is told in flashbacks. "The story never gets boring," said Diya, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

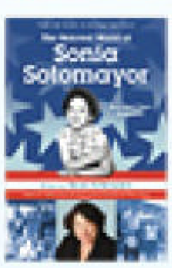


TWINS
By Varian Johnson, Illustrated by Shannon Wright
(Graphix)
Until 6th grade began, twin sisters Maureen and Francine did everything together. But as Francine tries to become more independent, Maureen worries that she's losing her best friend. "I like it because the twins are competitive, but they also love each other," said Addison, a 3rd grader. *Ages 8–12*



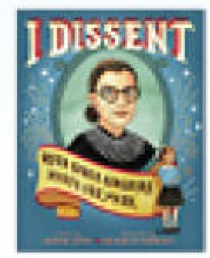
THE VANDERBEEKERS
By Karina Yan Glaser
(Clarion Books)
This series about the adventures of five siblings is "funny and heartwarming," said Florence, a 4th grader. *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*, the series' first book, takes place before Christmas. The siblings try to change the mind of a landlord who doesn't want to renew the lease for the family's apartment. *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE REAL-LIFE STORIES

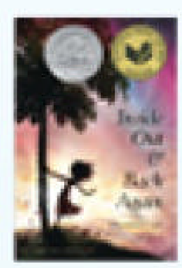


THE BELOVED WORLD OF SONIA SOTOMAYOR
By Sonia Sotomayor
(Yearling)
In a memoir adapted for young readers, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor talks about her childhood, college search, and early years working as a lawyer. "It teaches you the struggles she went through to become who she is now," said Christian, a 4th grader. You will see how she was determined to recover from mistakes and always asked questions. *Ages 10 and up*

BORN TO FLY: THE FIRST WOMEN'S AIR RACE ACROSS AMERICA
By Steve Sheinkin, Illustrated by Bijou Karman
(Roaring Brook Press)
In 1929, fearless female pilots competed in a nine-day race flying across America. This book captures the excitement and suspense of their groundbreaking competition with photos, illustrations, and dialogue. "This book makes history interesting," said Nissa, a 5th grader. *Ages 10–14*

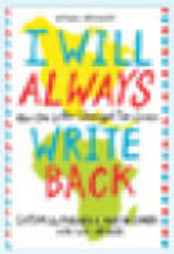


I DISSENT: RUTH BADER GINSBURG MAKES HER MARK
By Debbie Levy, Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
This illustrated book shows how Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933–2020) voiced her opinion. From telling her teacher she preferred writing with her left hand to speaking up for the rights of women and immigrants, she stayed strong. "This book shows girl power," said Caitlyn-Isabel, a 3rd grader. *Ages 6–10*



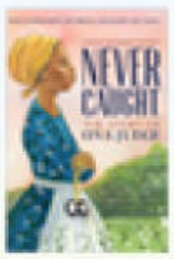
INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN
By Thanhhà Lai
(HarperCollins)
Based on the author's personal experience as a refugee, this emotional novel in verse tells the story of a 10-year-old girl who leaves Vietnam in 1975. "She settles in America after fleeing her homeland," said Garrett, a 6th grader. Living in a new country isn't easy, and some situations bring unexpected humor. *Ages 8–12*

Summer of Reading

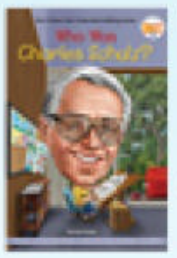


I WILL ALWAYS WRITE BACK: HOW ONE LETTER CHANGED TWO LIVES
By Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Martin, a boy from Zimbabwe, and 12-year-old Caitlin, who is from Pennsylvania, became pen pals for a school project. It turns into a lifelong friendship. The story "makes you think about what life is like in other countries that aren't as prosperous as America," said Nissa, a 5th grader. "Sometimes it only takes one person to help." *Ages 12 and up*

A LONG WALK TO WATER
By Linda Sue Park
(HMH Books for Young Readers)
Based on a true story, this short book alternates between the perspectives of two 11-year-olds who live in Sudan, a country in Africa. Twice a day, one of the characters walks two hours each way to a pond to bring home water. "This book reminds us that many people struggle for basics, such as water," said Srishti, a 5th grader. *Ages 10–14*



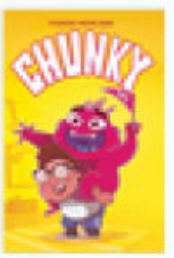
NEVER CAUGHT: THE STORY OF ONA JUDGE
By Erica Armstrong Dunbar
(Aladdin)
The opening chapter is nail-biting. Ona Judge (1773–1848) was a slave in the household of President George Washington. When she was 22, she escaped on a ship bound for New Hampshire. "The book tells you about her adventure as a free citizen," said Leslie, a 7th grader. *Ages 9–13*



WHO WAS? SERIES
By multiple authors
(Penguin Workshop)
This series of biographies of famous people, such as athletes, inventors, and artists, includes many enticing details. "The author describes people's lives and how they became well known," said Thomas, a 4th grader. One of the most recent books is about *Peanuts* comic-strip creator Charles Schulz (1922–2000). *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE CHARACTERS

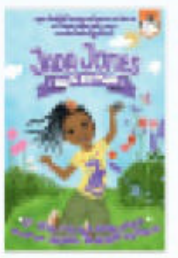
ALL THE ANSWERS
By Kate Messner
(Bloomsbury USA Children's)
When Ava uses an old blue pencil on her math quiz, she discovers that it has the magic power to provide her with the right answers. But isn't that cheating? This riveting story is about "truth, mystery, and honesty," said Kaelyn, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*



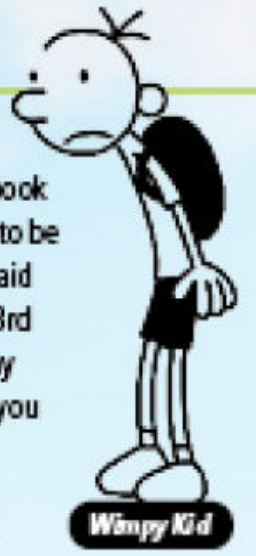
CHUNKY
By Yehudi Mercado
(Katherine Tegen Books)
Hudi's doctors tell him that he needs to be more active because of a medical condition. His parents encourage him to try a sport, but it's Hudi's imaginary friend, named Chunky, who protects him when a coach tries to take advantage of his size. You'll be rooting for Hudi. "It shows how you can change your life around," said Wyatt, a 5th grader. *Ages 8–12*

EL DEAFO
By Cece Bell
(Harry N. Abrams)
Cece's Phonic Ear helps her make friends. Not only can the hearing aid hear what's happening in the classroom, it can pick up chatter from the hallway, teacher's lounge, and bathroom. Suddenly, the device is a superpower and Cece is popular. "I love this story because it is based on the author's real-life experience," said Florence, a 4th grader. *Ages 8–12*

FISH IN A TREE
By Lynda Mullaly Hunt
(Nancy Paulsen Books)
Ally has been able to hide her dyslexia, a reading disorder, in every school until now. Mr. Daniels, her teacher, recognizes her struggles and helps her triumph over them. This story about "friendship, hard work, and courage will make your heart pound with happiness and hope," said Savanna, a 5th grader. *Ages 10 and up*



JADA JONES
By Kelly Starling Lyons, Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
(Penguin Workshop)
In *Rock Star*, the first book in this series, Jada feels blue because her best friend has moved away. She hopes to make new friends while working on a school project, but her classmates don't like her ideas. "The book teaches you to be confident," said Malaysia, a 3rd grader. It may also remind you of the Ivy + Bean series. *Ages 6–9*



NEW KID
By Jerry Craft
(Quill Tree Books)
This graphic novel centers around a middle schooler, Jordan, who is Black. He feels like he doesn't fit in at his school of mostly white students. The story is "funny and inspirational," said 5th grader Eliana. *New Kid* is the only graphic novel to win a Newbery Medal. *Ages 8–12*

STAND UP, YUMI CHUNG!
By Jessica Kim
(Puffin Books)
Yumi goes to a comedy camp run by one of her favorite YouTubers. Trouble is, her teacher and the class think she's someone else, and she doesn't correct them. Her lie turns into a double life. But how long can that last? "It's a funny and relatable story," said Amy, a 7th grader. *Ages 9–12*

STICKS & STONES
By Abby Cooper
(Square Fish)
The premise of this 2016 book is original: Elyse suffers from a genetic disorder in which words that others say about her stick to her arms and legs like tattoos. Through mysterious letters, she gets her confidence back. "This book shows that you don't have to believe what anyone says about you," said Madeline, a 5th grader. *Ages 10–14*

SOURCES: THE AUTHORS; COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS; BOOKS WRITTEN BY CHILDREN

Join *The Week Junior*'s Summer of Reading challenge!

Just read three books this summer (any books you like!) and tell us what you think of them.

First name _____

Age _____ State _____

Parent/guardian's email _____

Book #1

Title _____

Author _____

Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #2

Title _____

Author _____

Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #3

Title _____

Author _____

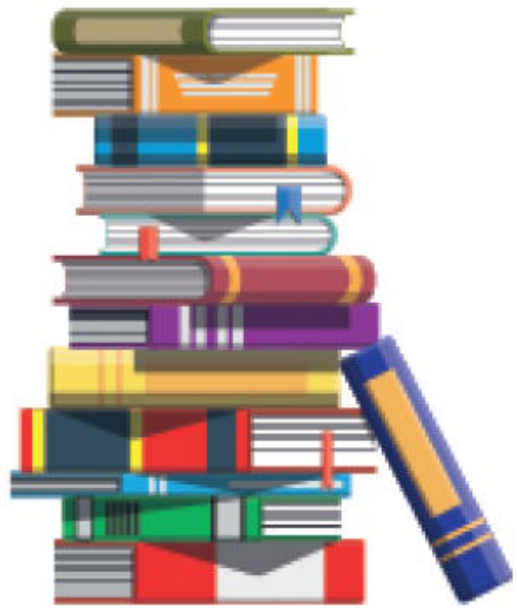
Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Take our challenge!

Fill out this form and have an adult upload it to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-readingsweeps. When you do, you will be entered in our sweepstakes for a chance to win books and a personal video call with one of our Author Ambassadors. Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline is Friday, August 19. For complete rules, go to theweekjunior.com/terms.



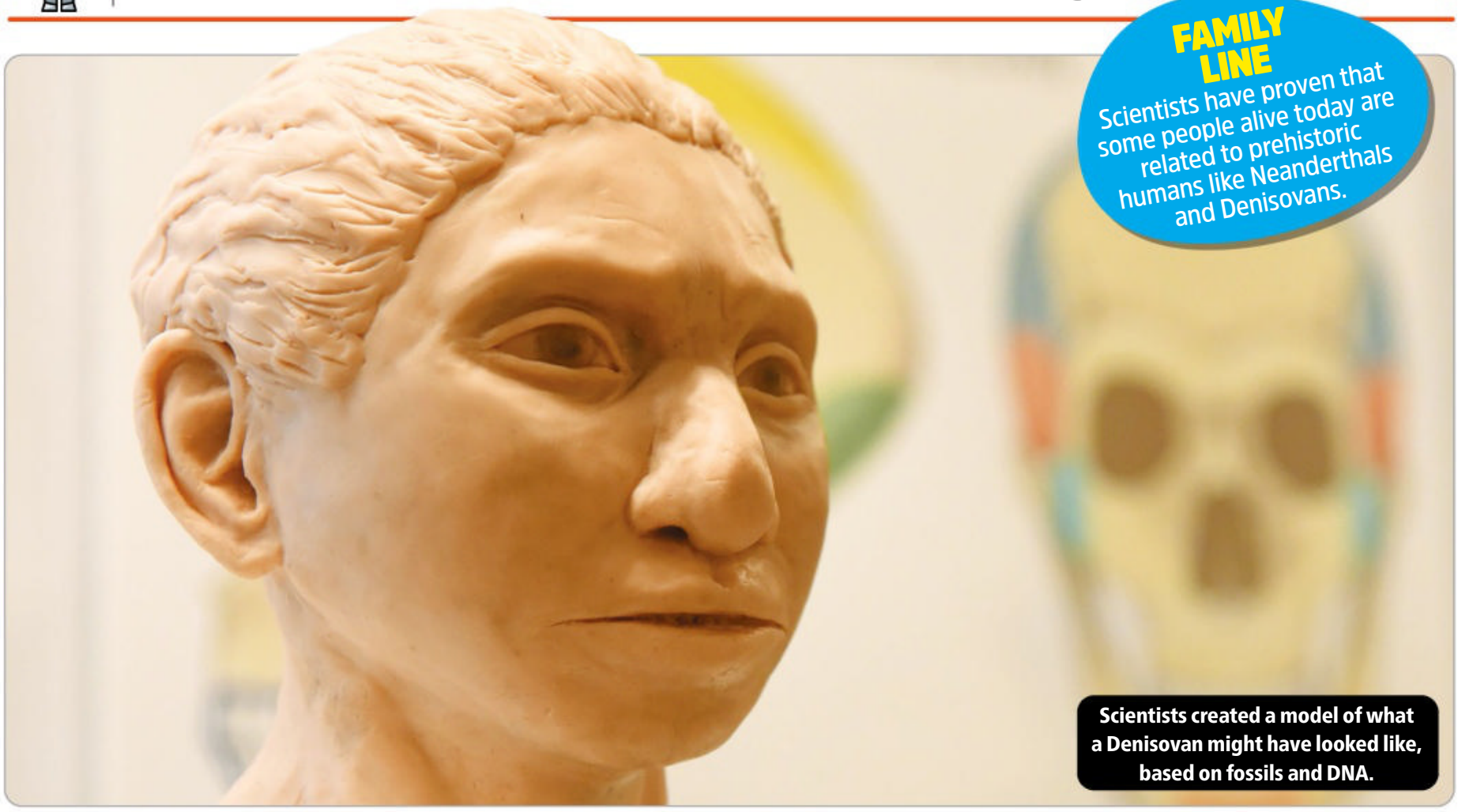
Parent/guardian's name _____

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____

I have read *The Week Junior* privacy policy and consent to allow my child to enter the Summer of Reading Sweepstakes.

Parent/guardian's signature _____

Find out more and get extra forms at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



FAMILY LINE
Scientists have proven that some people alive today are related to prehistoric humans like Neanderthals and Denisovans.

Scientists created a model of what a Denisovan might have looked like, based on fossils and DNA.

Tracking a mysterious human ancestor

Researchers working in the Southeast Asian country of Laos say they've discovered a rare fossil tooth from an extinct human species called the Denisovans. The new find seems to show that this mysterious species—which is known only from a handful of remains—lived across a much larger area than experts thought.

The discovery was made by a team of scientists and explorers at a narrow opening called Cobra Cave, where a local boy had reported seeing bones embedded in the crumbly rock. When French explorer Eric Suzzoni made the first trip into the cave in 2018, he brought out a jumble of animal bones, along with a small molar (a grinding tooth from the back of the mouth) that has a more wrinkled surface than molars of modern humans. Based on the age of the other bones that were found in the same location, the team says the tooth is between 131,000 and 164,000 years old. That means the person was alive long before the modern human species, Homo sapiens, reached the area.

The molar found in Cobra Cave

Using a sample of the tooth's enamel (outer coating), they extracted chemicals called proteins to confirm that it comes from a human relative rather than an ape such as an orangutan. Together with the tooth's size and lack of wear, the proteins suggest that it came from a girl between 3 and 8 years old. The chemical clues can't directly link the tooth to a particular extinct human species, but it looks like teeth in a jawbone from Tibet, whose discovery was announced in 2019. This jaw belonged to a member of the mysterious Denisovan species that was first found in eastern Russia (see box at right).

The discovery supports the idea that the Denisovans spread across Southeast Asia and learned to live in all sorts of habitats, including cold, high mountains and steamy tropical islands. "It kind of makes me think about how similar they are to us," team member Dr. Laura Shackelford told *National Geographic* magazine. "We're incredibly flexible—that's sort of the hallmark of modern humans."

The team hopes that further studies of the tooth could reveal more about its owner's life, such as her diet and the climate where she grew up. It may even allow them to identify other Denisovan remains that could be sitting unidentified in museums across Asia.

Discovering Denisovans

The Denisova cave entrance

The first evidence of the previously unknown human species called Denisovans was discovered at Denisova cave in the Altai mountains of Siberia, in Russia, in 2008. Scientists found a finger bone that was about 50,000 years old and tested its DNA (complex chemicals that carry instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop).

The DNA turned out to be distinct from both modern humans and their closest extinct relatives, Neanderthals. Instead, it came from another extinct species, which seems to have split from the Neanderthals about 400,000 years ago. This species was named Denisovans, after the cave where the fossil was found, and is believed to have died out about 30,000 years ago.

ALAMY; FABRICE DEMETER / UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN; SHUTTERSTOCK

Drone swarms can navigate on their own

Scientists have taught self-piloting drones to fly in groups and navigate complex environments such as forests. It's the first time a swarm of drones has independently flown in an uncontrolled environment, where they didn't know the obstacles in advance. Drones can fly well in open space, but until now it has been hard for them to fly through crowded areas unless they're controlled by a person.

Drones can fly in swarms.

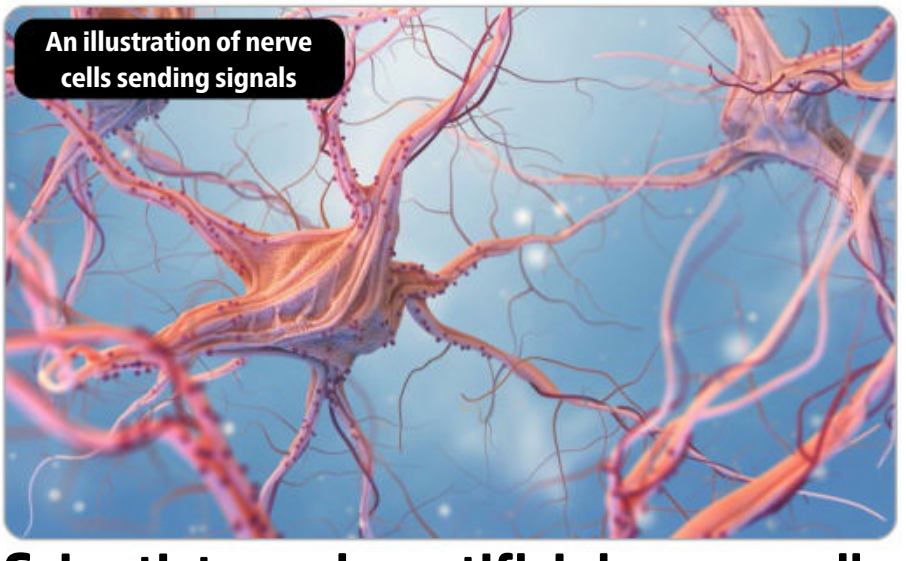
A team at Zhejiang University in China has created drones that can fly together in a swarm and change course to avoid trees and other hazards—including other drones. The scientists were inspired by the way birds fly in packs through dense woods.

The researchers built drones that are about the size of a human hand and tested them in a variety of environments, including a bamboo forest and in heavy "traffic" with other drones. Shrinking the size of a drone usually limits its abilities, but these robots have tools to sense height and see around them. A built-in computer uses an algorithm (a set of instructions it follows to perform a task) to avoid crashes.

The team hopes to develop drones that can be sent into places that are too dangerous for humans, such as areas struck by earthquakes, floods, or other disasters. First they must be tested in cities to see how they cope with a large number of moving obstacles, such as people and vehicles.

The drones were tested in a heavily wooded area.

DID YOU KNOW?
Drones are used to monitor wildlife populations, track migrating animals, and prevent illegal hunting.



An illustration of nerve cells sending signals

Scientists make artificial nerve cells

Scientists at the University of Oxford, in the UK, developed a material that works like human neurons (nerve cells). Neurons make up the nervous system—a complex network of billions of tiny nerve cells that sends signals around the body. They affect everything we do, from thinking to moving around. Damaged nerves can lead to serious medical problems.

The artificial neurons were made with a chemical called hydrogel. They are about 0.7 millimeters across—about 700 times wider than a human nerve cell—but can transmit signals faster than real neurons. They could help people with diseases related to damaged nerve cells, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The artificial neurons might also have broader medical uses, including the development of important drugs and fast treatment of wounds. For now, the lab-made cells work for only a few hours.

AMAZING INVENTION

Tomatoes that have more nutrients

Tomatoes on the vine

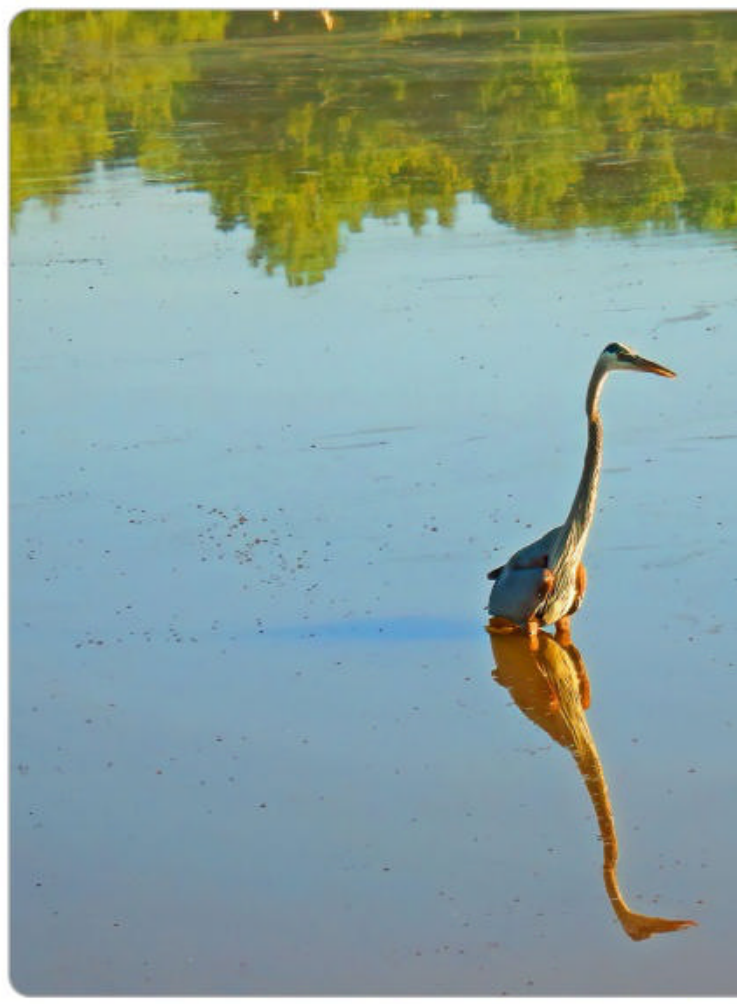
Scientists in the UK grew special tomatoes with extra vitamin D, which is important for people's health. Vitamin D deficiency affects about one billion people worldwide.

Tomatoes naturally contain a substance that gets converted into vitamin D. The team altered the genes (short strands of DNA) of the tomato plants, breeding them to have more of this substance than usual. Each tomato has about as much vitamin D as two medium-sized eggs. The scientists think the technique could be used with other foods too.

ALAMY (2); AFP/FILE LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA; GETTY IMAGES

Reader photos of the week

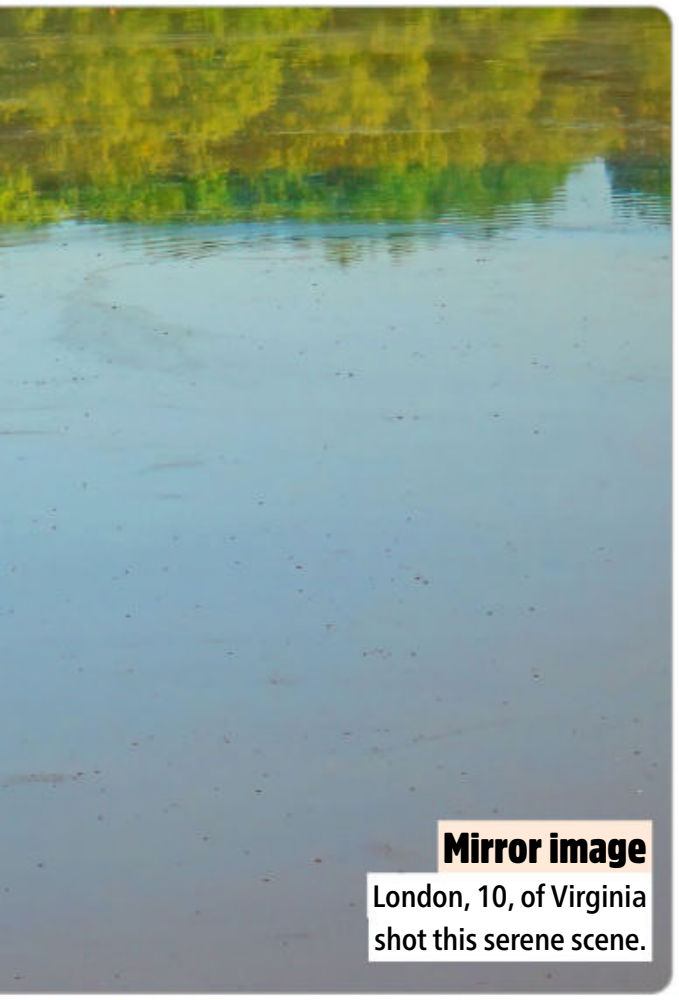
Crown for a cat
Asha, 10, of Massachusetts titled this photo "Dandelion Queen."



In full bloom
Nidhi, 8, of California snapped this close-up of a brightly colored zinnia.

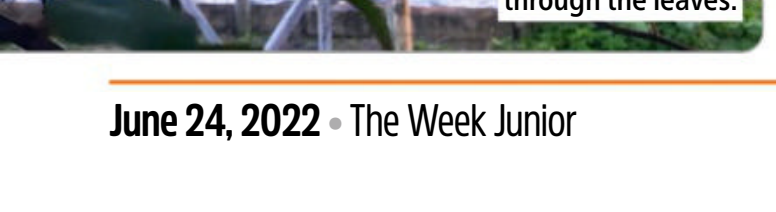
ASHA; LONDON; ALIANA; STELLA; NIDHI; AYUSH

Reader photos of the week



Mirror image
London, 10, of Virginia shot this serene scene.

Bright white
"Snowy Showpiece" was taken by Ayush, 11, of North Carolina.



Sneak peek
Stella, 11, of Michigan took this photo while looking through the leaves.

Buzzy and fuzzy
Aliana, 10, of Illinois captured this image of a furry flyer.

FUN FACT
The University of Oklahoma's Jocelyn Alo has hit more home runs than any other college softball or baseball player in history.

The University of Oklahoma softball team

Softball history

The sport was first played in Chicago in 1887. Before it became known as softball, it was called a variety of names, including kitten ball, mush ball, diamond ball, and playground ball. This month, the Women's Professional Fastpitch league was launched in the US.

Oklahoma wins college softball title

For the second year in a row, the University of Oklahoma won the National College Athletic Association's Women's College World Series (WCWS). On June 9, they defeated the University of Texas, 10–5, in Game 2 of the series to take the title.

The softball championship tournament began last month with 64 teams. Oklahoma was ranked as the top team. They had been very tough opponents this year. Most of their wins were a result of the mercy rule, which automatically ends a game when a team is leading by eight or more runs after five innings. They only lost once during the regular season, and the team that beat them was Texas.

Jocelyn Alo

Eight teams made it into the WCWS, which was played at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Texas was the first unseeded (not ranked) team to ever reach the finals. To win the title, a team must win two out of three games of the final series.

In Game 1 on June 8, Texas struck first with a run in the top of the first inning. In the bottom of the inning, Oklahoma scored five runs and they never looked back. They scored at least one run in every inning on their way to a 16–1 victory. Oklahoma's star player Jocelyn Alo led the way, reaching base every time she was at bat. She hit two home runs and scored five times in the win.

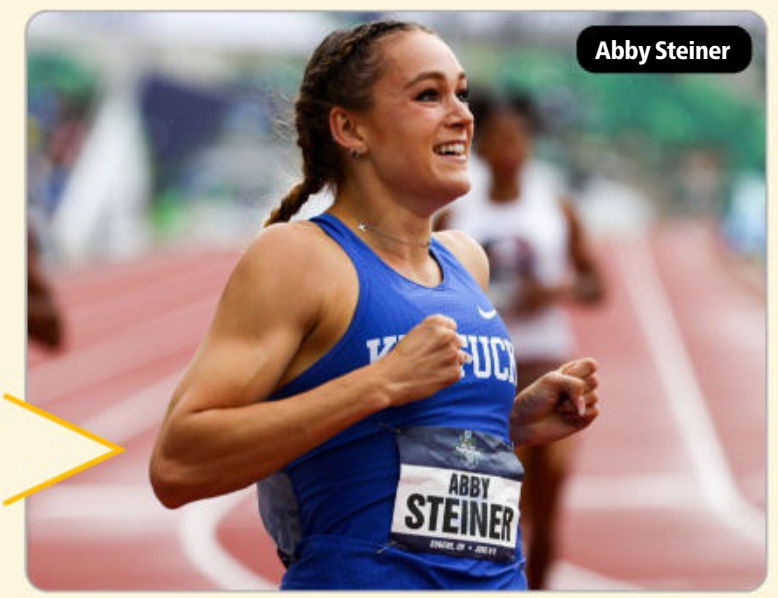
In Game 2, Texas came out strong and took a 2–0 lead in the bottom of the first. The team's starting pitcher, Estelle Czech, was fantastic early on in the contest and prevented Oklahoma from scoring in the first three innings. In the top of the fourth, Oklahoma tied the score, and by the end of the sixth inning, they had a 10–2 lead. Texas scored three times in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't enough for the win. In that game, Oklahoma players Kinzie Hansen and Grace Lyons both hit home runs.

During the WCWS, Oklahoma hit 17 home runs, breaking the record of 15 that they set last season. They also scored 64 total runs in the series, another record. Oklahoma has won four of the past seven college softball championships. They finished the season with a record of 59–3.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
On June 11, the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the New York Rangers, 2–1, to make the Stanley Cup Finals. They are now facing the Colorado Avalanche and vying for a third straight championship.

COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD
The University of Kentucky's Abby Steiner won the 200-meter final in a record 21.80 seconds at the NCAA Track and Field Championships on June 11.

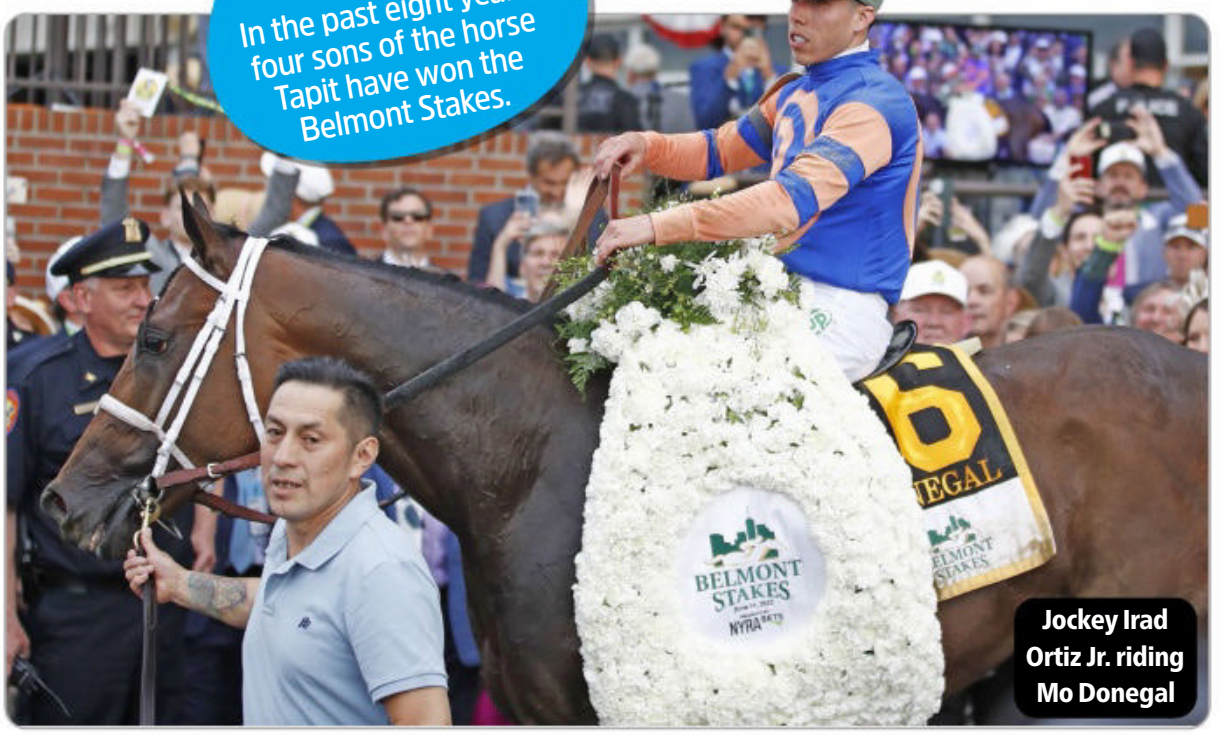


Abby Steiner

COLLEGE BASEBALL
The University of Notre Dame defeated the number one overall team, the University of Tennessee, 7–3, on June 12 to move on to the College World Series.

SOCCER
On June 12, Portland Thorns midfielder Olivia Moultrie, age 16, became the youngest player ever to score a goal in the National Women's Soccer League. She helped her team beat the Houston Dash, 4–0.

FAST FAMILY
In the past eight years, four sons of the horse Tapit have won the Belmont Stakes.



Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. riding Mo Donegal

Horse wows at Belmont Stakes

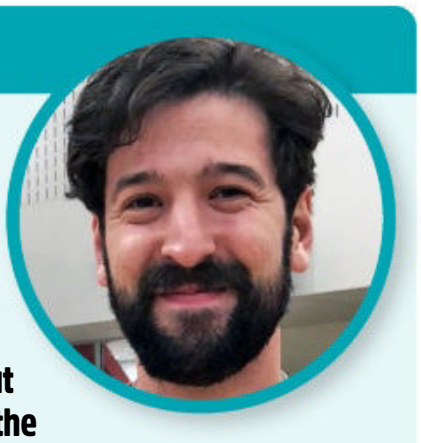
The 154th running of the Belmont Stakes, one of the most important horse races of the year, was held at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York, on June 11. It was the final leg of horse racing's Triple Crown, a set of three major races that also includes the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes. The Belmont Stakes is one and a half miles long, making it the longest of the three races. It is nicknamed "The Test of the Champion."

There were eight horses in this year's race. Mo Donegal, the horse that was given the best odds of winning just before the start, came in first place. He was ridden by jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. Nest, the only filly (young female) in the race, placed second. She was ridden by Ortiz's brother, Jose. Both horses have the same trainer, Todd Pletcher. This was the fourth time one of the horses he's trained has won the Belmont Stakes.

Mo Donegal ended up finishing three lengths (about 24 feet) ahead of Nest, but he didn't take the lead until the final stretch of the track. The horse We the People set the pace for most of the race, with Skippylongstocking in second. As the horses completed the final turn, Mo Donegal charged up on the outside of the track and overtook all of the other horses. Nest, who had been in fourth place, also pulled ahead. Skippylongstocking finished in third.

For the past four years, three different horses have won each of the Triple Crown races. The last time that happened was in the 1920s. Rich Strike, the longshot entry that won the Kentucky Derby, finished in sixth place at Belmont. Early Voting, the Preakness winner, did not take part in the race. However, Early Voting's jockey was Jose Ortiz, the man who rode Nest at Belmont.

COACH OF THE WEEK



Coach's Name: **Macky Bergman**

Organization: **Steady Buckets (basketball)**

"Coach Macky always pushes us to be the hardest workers! He runs intense workouts that'll have you sore for a few days. However, he's very supportive, and without him I wouldn't know how to play basketball. He gives me the determination I need to work harder and become a better basketball player!" Jackson, 13, New York

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Connor Lamastra

AGE: 23 SPORT: SWIMMING
TEAM: NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Diving in I started summer league swimming when I was a little kid. It's fun and not very competitive. It's about learning to swim and being part of a team. That's where I learned to love the sport. At 14, I started swimming year-round.

Wall of fame I've had a poster of Olympian Michael Phelps hanging up in my room since I was 13 or 14.

Splashy events There are different kinds of swim meets. Dual meets are fun and intense. You swim three or four races in a day. Championship meets are held over several days and are even more fun because friends and family come and watch. There's a lot of pressure, but you've got your teammates by your side and you're ready to swim out of your mind.

Fueling up Swimming burns tons of energy. I snack on reasonably healthy things throughout the day. I love pretzels and hummus, baby carrots with ranch dressing, dried fruits, and trail mix.

Dream world One big thing I do to stay mentally healthy is get enough sleep. When you're well rested, it makes everything easier. You're in a better mood and you feel looser.

Keeping it light I handle the pressure of a big meet by not thinking about it. I'll sit on the bleachers with friends and crack jokes, tell stories, and talk about anything other than swimming.

Top motto I once read about a parent who always told their child, "Go and work the hardest and have the most fun." I try to do that every day.

GETTY IMAGES (2); NU ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Lightyear

New film stars Buzz Lightyear

The history of the famous astronaut character from *Toy Story* is told in the adventure *Lightyear*, now in theaters.

One of the main characters in the popular *Toy Story* films is the Buzz Lightyear toy. Now a new Disney-Pixar film, *Lightyear* tells the story about the fictional movie character that inspired the toy. The film has been released in movie theaters across the country.

Fans of *Toy Story* know Buzz as a Space Ranger who thinks highly of himself. *Lightyear* director Angus MacLane said he got the idea for the new film because he had spent 20 years wondering where Buzz came from. "I wanted this film to be separate from *Toy Story*," he said. "I thought of it more as a prequel."

Chris Evans

The film begins with Buzz and his space crew stranded on a distant planet. They are there due to a poor decision Buzz made. He tries to fix things but ends up sending himself into the future. To find his way home, he must train a team of ambitious recruits.

Chris Evans, the actor who portrays Captain America in the Marvel movies, voices Buzz. He is not the same actor that voices Buzz in the *Toy Story* films because they are playing different characters.

A great deal of research about space travel went into making *Lightyear.* The film's visual artists even visited NASA (the US space agency), where they toured the mission control center and flight training simulators. For the overall look of the film, MacLane said he was inspired by films he loved growing up, such as *Star Wars* and *Jurassic Park.*

Buzz may be famous for his confidence, but in this film he is learning from his mistakes, producer Gaylyn Susman said. Audiences can learn from them too. "We make bad decisions," Susman said, "but if we spend our lives regretting those bad decisions instead of investing in what's in front of our eyes, is that really living?"

3 facts about Buzz Lightyear

Original character

Before the *Toy Story* character's name was decided, he was called Tempus of Morph and Lunar Larry. In early sketches, Larry wore a spacesuit with an "LL" on it.

Lunar Larry

Inspiration for his name

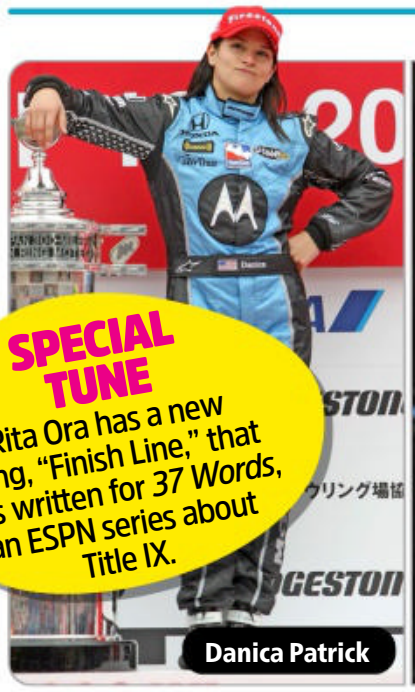
American astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin inspired Buzz Lightyear's name. Aldrin flew on the Apollo 11 mission in 1969 and was one of the first two men on the Moon. Over his career, Aldrin spent more than 12 days in space in all.

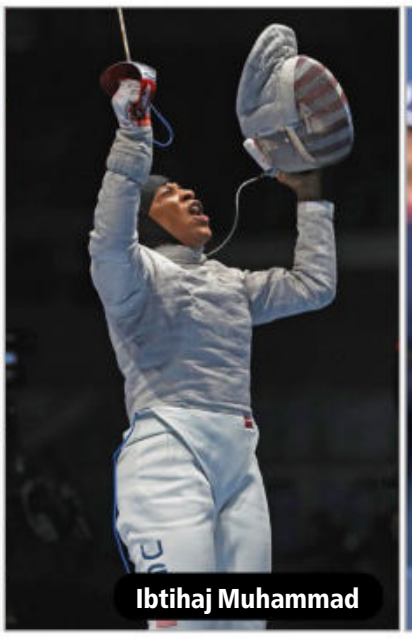
Buzz Aldrin

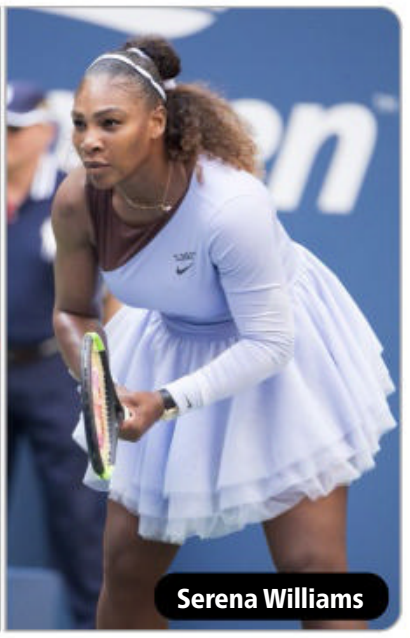
Space trip

In 2008, a Buzz Lightyear figure was sent to the International Space Station. It stayed in orbit for more than 450 days. The figure is now on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

Buzz in space







SPECIAL TUNE

Rita Ora has a new song, "Finish Line," that was written for *37 Words*, an ESPN series about Title IX.

Exhibition celebrates Title IX

Museums and organizations across the country are honoring the 50th anniversary of Title IX, a federal law that guarantees women and men the same opportunities in education. Title IX (pronounced "Title Nine" because IX is the number nine in Roman numerals) had a significant effect on school sports and increased opportunities for girls to play on teams and become more competitive athletes.

One exhibit is at the Paley Center for Media in New York City. It is an organization that looks at the ways television, radio, and other forms of media affect society. For *ESPN Fifty/50*, the Paley Center worked with sports network ESPN to put together videos, photos, and artifacts that highlight the fight for equality and key moments in women's sports from the past 50 years.

The Paley Center has a racing suit worn by Danica Patrick when she became the first woman to win an IndyCar race in 2008. Other items include a headscarf worn by American Muslim fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad at the 2016 Olympics, and tennis legend Serena Williams' tutu outfit from the 2018 US Open.

The Paley Center called the athletes in the exhibit "agents of change" and told *The Week Junior*, "Their stories continue to lead the way toward full equality for women in all fields."

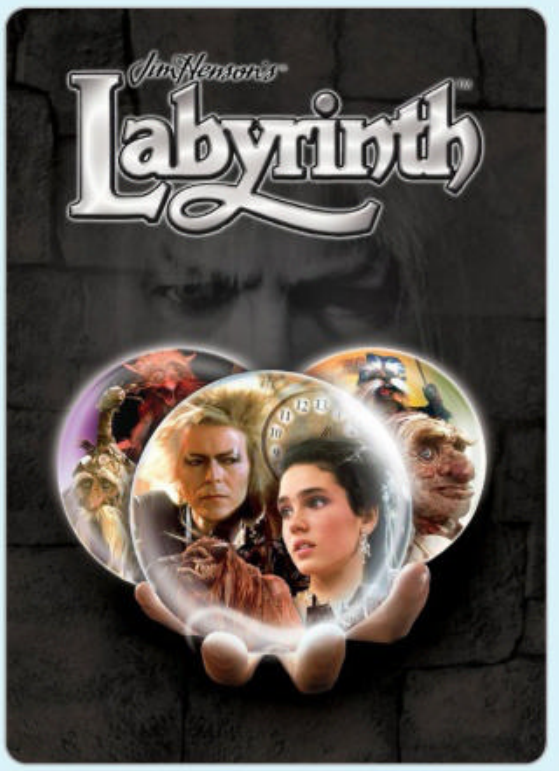
MOVIE NIGHT

If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Labyrinth (1986) PG

Available to rent or buy on all major platforms

Sarah is a teen who lives with her dad, stepmother, and baby brother, Toby. She loves a fairy-tale book called *The Labyrinth*. One night, she's stuck at home babysitting Toby. After she wishes goblins from the book would take him away, he vanishes. Then, an evil goblin king, Jareth (played by music legend David Bowie), appears. He says he trapped Toby in his castle and Sarah has 13 hours to rescue him. To do so, she must navigate his immense labyrinth (maze). If she fails, Toby will become a goblin. Sarah has only her own wits to use until the labyrinth's strange but friendly creatures, Hoggle, Ludo, and Sir Didymus, help her out. As Jareth tries to interfere in Sarah's journey, will she be able to save her brother? This hit was directed by Muppets creator Jim Henson.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens

(Disney XD)(Disney Now App)(Hulu)

This is a spin-off of a popular Japanese anime franchise set in a world where people compete in battles using special playing cards. In this series, 5th grader Yuga Ohdo has created a new dueling method, but a mega corporation that controls the games wants him stopped.

Hidden Lives of Pets

(Netflix)

This documentary series visits pets with remarkable skills around the world and explains the animal science behind them. You'll learn what enables fish to play soccer in their tank, how medical detection dogs can save the lives of their owners, and more.

Surviving Summer

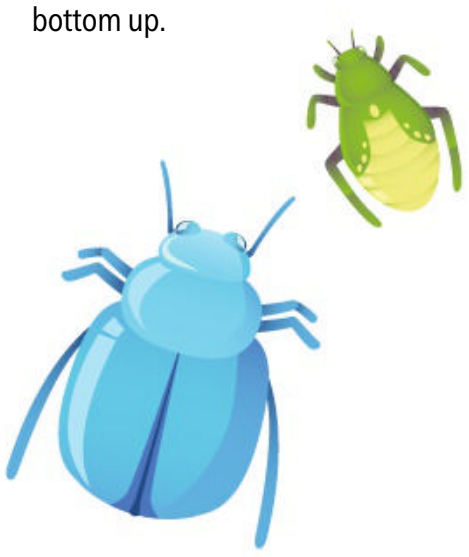
(Netflix)

Summer, a rebellious New York teen, is sent to live with family friends in a small Australian town in this new drama series. She's resistant to the change at first, but after she bonds with local teens, they form a surf crew and help one another navigate waves in the ocean and everyday life.

GETTY IMAGES (3); STUDIO DICE/SHUEISHA, TV TOKYO, KONAMI; COURTESY OF NETFLIX (2); HENSON ASSOCIATES, INC./LUCASFILM LTD.; ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY/PIXAR; GETTY IMAGES (2); PIXAR; NASA

Word ladder

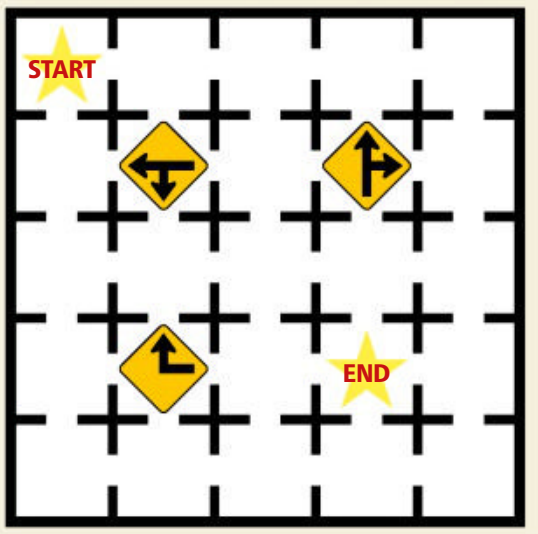
To change the word JUNE into the word BUGS, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



	J U N E
Unwanted stuff to throw away or recycle ▶	
A big, broken-off piece ▶	
Sound from a car or a goose ▶	
Item on a fishing rod ▶	
It might have pictures or chapters ▶	
Sounds from a disappointed audience ▶	
Men of the future ▶	
Makes a purchase ▶	
	B U G S

DETOURS

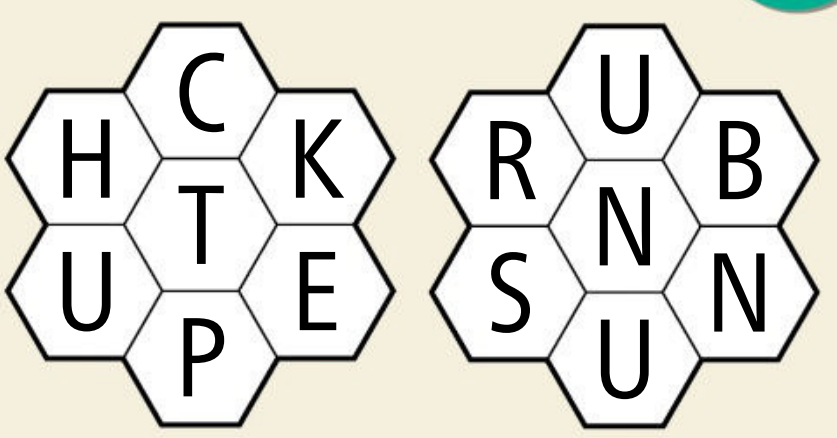
Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter thing that's red. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



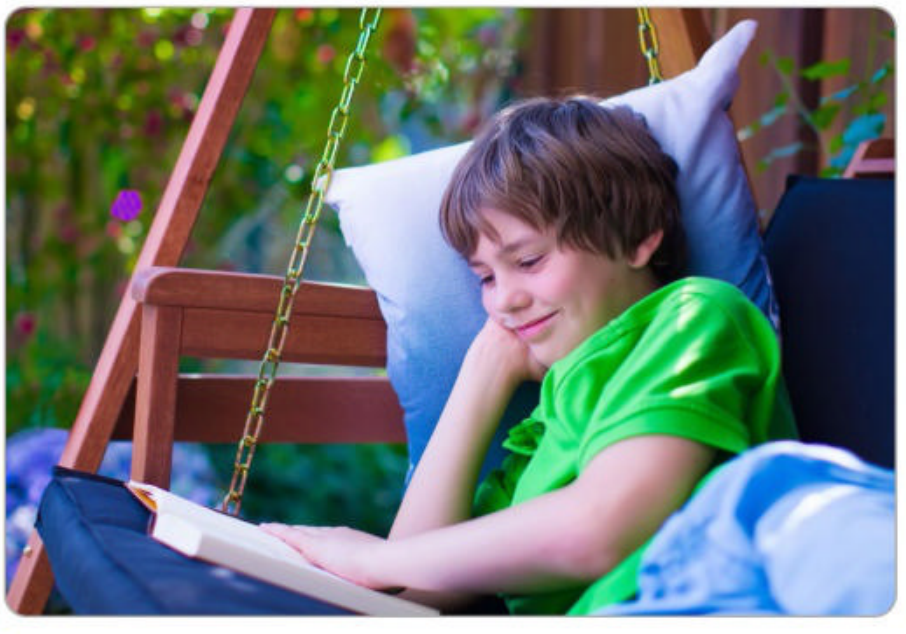
Sign in, please

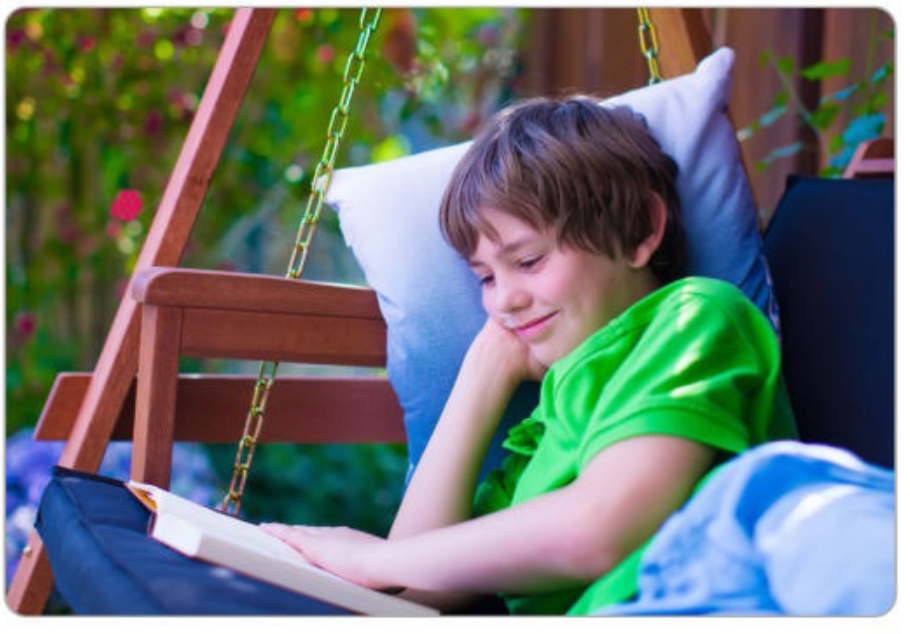
Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

	26			
		3	=	10
	2			+
	=			
		3	=	39
				14

Spot the difference

These two pictures of summer reading appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Crossmath hint: The symbol for the equation ending in 39 is a multiplication sign.

That's unbelievable!

The couple and their "helicamper"

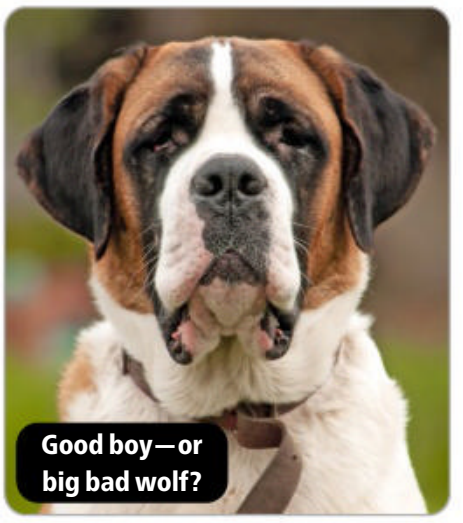
Hitting the road in a helicopter

Two US Coast Guard pilots from Alabama are taking their work on the road. Maggie Morgan and Blake Morris purchased a retired helicopter online and spent more than 900 hours converting it into a recreational vehicle, complete with a kitchen, bed, and TV. When they took the "helicamper" out for a drive, fellow motorists approved. "People would honk and roll down their window and ask what it was," Morgan said. "Or they'd give us a big thumbs-up."

When ducks get stuck

Firefighters in London, England, raced to the rescue after a mother duck hatched her eggs on top of a three-story building, with no way for the little ducklings to get down from the roof. The crew climbed a ladder to reach the nest and used a pet carrier to bring all seven ducklings safely down to the ground. The ducklings will be cared for at a local bird sanctuary until they are ready to be released into the wild.

The lucky ducks



Good boy—or big bad wolf?

"Woof" pack panic

The Park County Sheriff's Office in Colorado was on high alert after someone reported seeing a pack of wolves running near a local elk herd. The "pack," however, turned out to be a group of five Saint Bernard dogs, which authorities said had a "history of escaping their enclosure." The dogs' owner received a citation for allowing them to run loose.

Real or fake?

Could a horse really send a message?

Saying "neigh" to out-of-office emails

Iceland is introducing a new service that lets horses respond to work emails. When employees are out of the office, they can entrust their correspondence to a horse trotting around on a giant keyboard, typing nonsense replies with its hooves. The tourism website Visit Iceland found that many people feel pressured to check their emails on vacation, so they hoped this would encourage people to relax. Is this story real, or are we just horsing around?*

You shall not pass this board!

Where's the wizard in the wood?

This vacation rental has a bit of magic to it. When guests arrive at Isobel Haldane's vacation cottage in Scotland, in the UK, they immediately start searching for an image of Gandalf, a wizard character in *The Lord of the Rings*, in a floorboard. The odd shape appears naturally in the wood and seems to show his nose, eyes, beard, mouth, and pointy hat. One group of travelers couldn't find him on their first visit, so they booked a second trip to try again.

*Real! Icelandic, pony-sized horses are selected to respond to office emails. According to Iceland's tourism department, "Your boss will never know the difference."

HELICAMPER/INSTAGRAM; COURTESY OF THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE; GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; KENNEDY NEWS; DEAN MURRAY/ZENGER; ON THE LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Your turn

Editor's note

This week we are excited to kick off our Summer of Reading program (p12). When our team first met to discuss it, we knew we wanted our summer book list to be based on titles children recommend. Each week, the book reviews that readers write and submit to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com* show us that kids have the best ideas about what other kids might want to read. You do a great job, and the children across the US who shared their favorite books for our Summer of Reading program gave terrific suggestions. From fantasy to realistic fiction to mystery and more, I hope you discover a book that you can't put down. And don't forget to enter our sweepstakes! You could win books and a video call with one of our Author Ambassadors (p15). You can find the form and instructions on how to enter on p17. From all of us at *The Week Junior*, happy summer and happy reading!

Mindy Walker
Executive Editor

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

We Need Diverse Books

This organization works to promote diverse books so that all children can see characters who look like them in the stories they read. Since 2014, the group has donated more than 73,000 books to schools across the US. It also offers grants and mentorships to writers and illustrators from minority groups and honors top young people's literature with awards. Find out more at diversebooks.org.

WNDB diversebooks.org

Helping animals with a food drive

Caleb, 11, Texas

"I am a Tenderfoot with BSA Troop 491. While completing the merit badge of Citizenship in the Community, I dedicated eight hours of community service to the nonprofit organization Leave It for the Pooch. Its mission is to raise awareness about homeless, neglected, and needy animals, unite the rescue community, and raise money for animal welfare groups. All the money it collects goes to helping animals in need. I set up cat and dog food drives and was able to collect 583 pounds of cat and dog food, $580.25, and other items that animals need. I chose to do this because I like to help animals and they need people like me to survive."

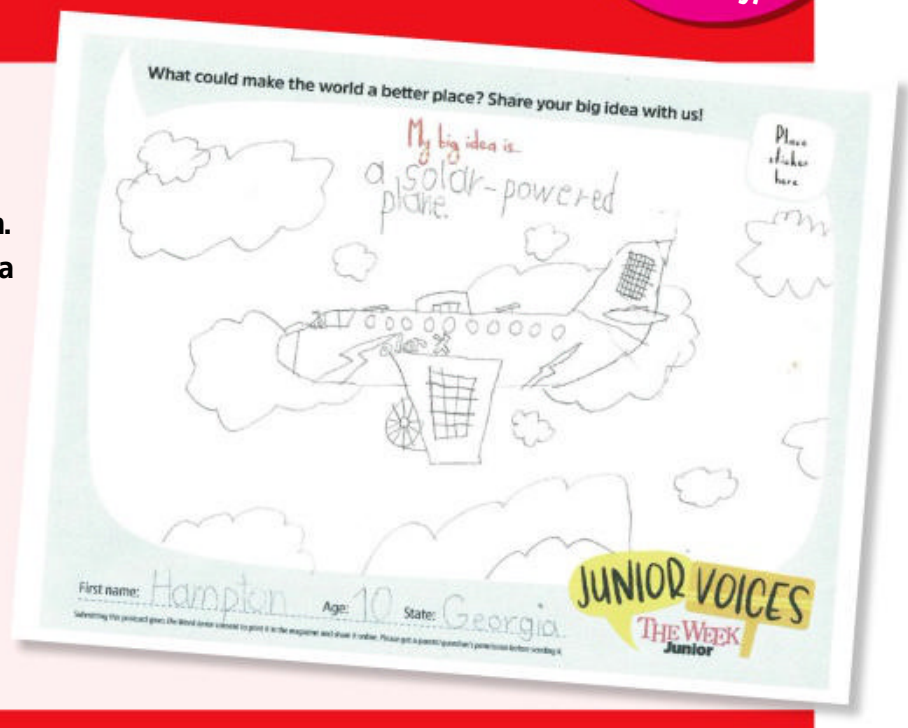
Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
How many books can you put in an empty backpack?
Only one. After that, it's not empty!

JUNIOR VOICES

Share your idea!

We know you have amazing ideas, and we want to hear them. To take part in Junior Voices, ask a parent or guardian to download a postcard at theweekjunior.com/juniorvoices. Write or draw your idea for making the world a better place and send it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Every idea counts! We'll feature more kids' ideas on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

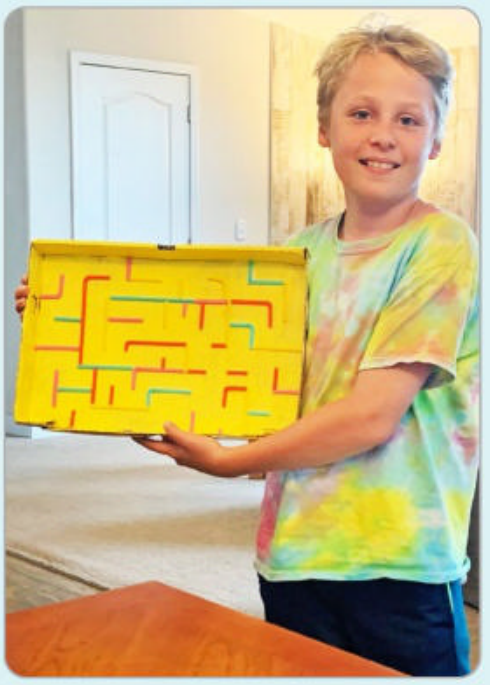
Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"I made the chickpea salad for my mom as breakfast in bed on Mother's Day. I was inspired by the recipe from the magazine. My mom was very happy and enjoyed the breakfast!" Aakanksha, 10, Ohio

"I did the Marble Maze from the May 27 issue. Making the maze was fun, and I love looking at it and feeling proud. Thank you!" Joyner, 10, Oregon



"I love doing gymnastics! In my spare time, I love reading *The Week Junior*. Someday I want to be an Olympic gymnast like in the Winter Games magazine issue." Avery, 9, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Watling**

School: **Nativity Catholic School**

"Mr. Watling is a very kind assistant teacher. One of my classmates gave him a joke calendar, so every morning he shares a joke to start us off laughing and ends the day with a pun. He challenges us to always do the right thing and guides us if we are unsure. He is without a doubt an 'eggcellent' person, and my classmates and I are so lucky to have him in our grade. Thank you, Mr. Watling."

Elliot, 10, Virginia

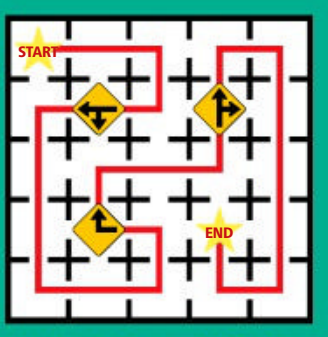
Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY WNDB

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

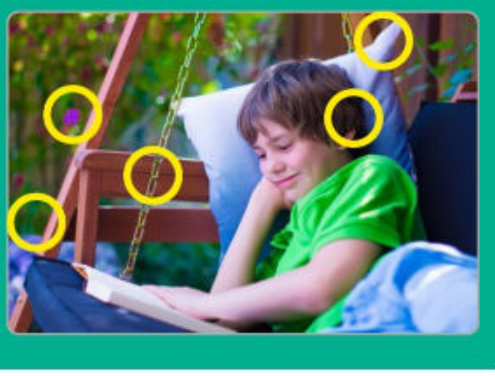
Word ladder

June
junk
hunk
honk
hook
book
boos
boys
buys
bugs



Stepping stones
ketchup, sunburn

		26		
30	÷	3	=	10
2				+
=				4
13	×	3	=	39
		14		



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Chris Evans **2** False. It was vitamin D. **3** c) Iraq **4** True **5** c) 11 **6** True **7** Cherokee Nation **8** a) San Diego Zoo **9** False. They hit 17. **10** Laos **11** b) 5 **12** b) Galveston **13** New York **14** True **15** b) Gandalf

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: In honor of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, what is your favorite word?

"My favorite word is kindness. It has the power to change people's lives."

"Imagination, because it can take you far."

"Onomatopoeia is so fun to say!"

"Dog, because dogs are my favorite animal."

In the big debate, we asked: Should schools get rid of class rank?

"No, you should be appreciated for all the hard work you put into school."

"Yes, because students can feel bad."

"Maybe teachers can make custom books for each student with their very own rank."

Now tell us: What was the best book you recently read and why?

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Who voices Buzz Lightyear in the upcoming movie *Lightyear*?

2 True or false? Scientists found a way to grow tomatoes with more vitamin A.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Following a drought, scientists explored a 3,400-year-old city in what country?

a) India

b) Iran

c) Iraq

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Vicky Umodu found $36,000 in the cushion of a used chair she got online.

True ☐ False ☐

5 How old was singer Billie Eilish when she learned she had Tourette's syndrome?

a) 6 b) 8 c) 11

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? The Andean bear is the only bear species native to South America.

True ☐ False ☐

7 Wilma Mankiller was the first female principal chief of what tribal nation?

8 The first male golden takin calf ever born in the Western Hemisphere is at which zoo?

a) San Diego Zoo

b) Smithsonian's National Zoo

c) Philadelphia Zoo

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2

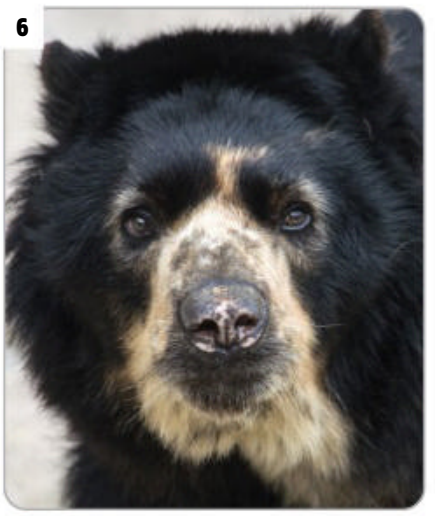
12

1

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

13

6



9 True or false? Oklahoma's softball team hit 15 home runs in this year's Women's College World Series.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In what country did researchers find a tooth from an extinct human species called Denisovans?

11 How many books on *The Week Junior*'s 2022 Summer of Reading list have won Newbery Medals or Honors?

a) 3 b) 5 c) 7

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 Juneteenth celebrates the arrival of US troops to release enslaved people in what Texas city?

a) Austin

b) Galveston

c) Houston

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 In the Netflix series *Surviving Summer*, the main character is sent to an Australian town from where?

14 True or false? The Belmont Stakes is the longest of the Triple Crown horse races.

True ☐ False ☐

15 A vacation cottage in Scotland has an image of what fictional wizard in its wood?

a) Dumbledore

b) Gandalf

c) Merlin

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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Share the fun ...with friends!

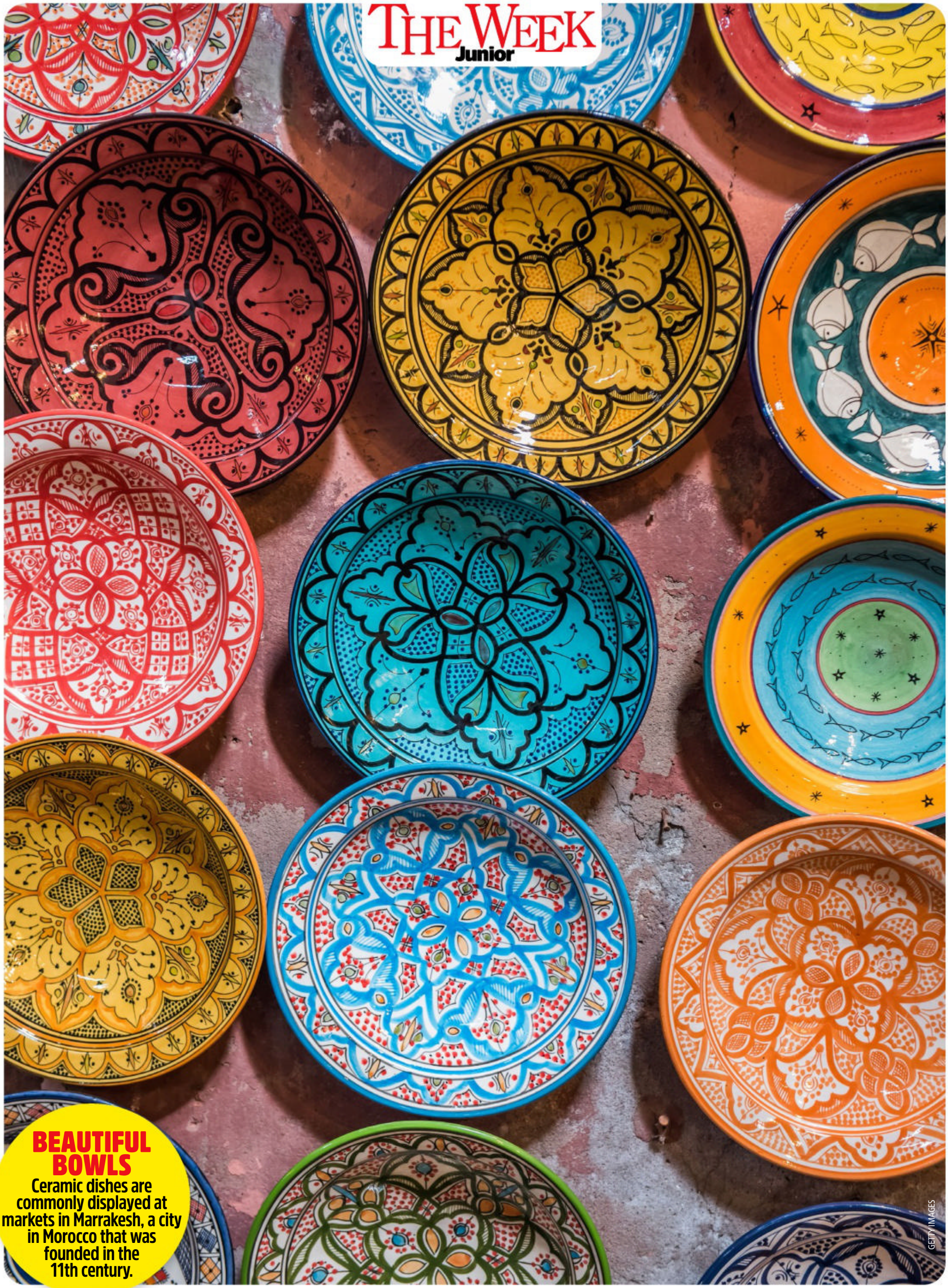
This summer, spend some time sharing *The Week Junior* with friends. Reading together helps us connect with one another and build great friendships. When you have a reading buddy, you can talk about what you read and exchange your ideas and opinions.

Our Summer of Reading challenge can help bring friends together too. Pick a book and ask a friend to read the same one. Start a conversation about why you liked or disliked the book and see what your friend says!

And when you finish reading this issue of *The Week Junior*, consider passing the magazine on to someone else who might enjoy reading it too!

For book recommendations from kids, have your parents visit theweekjunior.com/summerofreading to download our special 2022 Summer of Reading book list.

THE WEEK Junior



BEAUTIFUL BOWLS

Ceramic dishes are commonly displayed at markets in Marrakesh, a city in Morocco that was founded in the 11th century.

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